

Reception Newsletter – Friday 8th May 2026

Our new website is now live. I hope you are managing to navigate Reception's webpage. This also means we have changed from BlueSky to Facebook for our news feed. Please log on to Facebook to find St Anne's Catholic Primary School Streetly and follow our page.



RE - May the Month of May / Jesus' Ascension to Heaven

This week we started thinking about May as the Month of Mary. Some children helped me set up a prayer focus area as a devotion to Mary (see Facebook for pictures).

This week we started to think about Jesus returning to His Father in Heaven. Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told His disciples that God would send a special helper. This links nicely with our Wednesday Word.

The Wednesday Word for this week is **'helper'**. We talked about how other people are helpers, how we can be helpers at home and how we can be helpers in school. Perhaps you could ask your child to help do little jobs at home EG: setting the table, tidying away toys, helping with younger siblings or making their bed.

<https://wednesday-word.paperturn-view.com/helper?pid=MTA101634&v=209.1>



Our hymn this week was **'Praise Him'** and we composed our own verse linking it with our Wednesday Word 'trust':

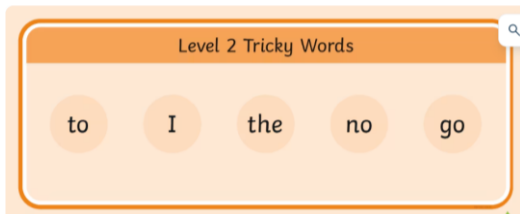
<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/pupils/class-pages/reception/hymns>



Phonics – Level 3

This wee Miss Khan & Miss Jan led the review of our Level 3 sounds - **'sh', 'ch' & 'th' (voiced and unvoiced)**. Don't forget to remind your child to stick their tongues out when saying the sounds for 'th'. I was very impressed with the progress since we last looked at these sounds as our main focus. You might want to play the games on www.phonicsplay.co.uk to help your child practice reading words using these sounds or want to do the dictation challenges using these sounds to help reinforce them.

The children are becoming more confident at reading the tricky words on sight. We are now working on writing them independently. This week we looked at **'we', 'me' & 'be'**. The tricky part is the 'e' that makes the 'ee' sound.



Handwriting

This week we continued with our 'Funky Finger Gym' using pipe cleaners and threading beads. They are quite small and fiddly, but will strengthen the muscles in our fingers and also help the children in an activity coming up soon.



We have practiced the letters 'f' using the correct formation. Don't forget to use the lines carefully when writing them. Ask your child to show you how to do it – 'Around the fairy's head and dress and give her a wand'

Maths

This week we continued learning how to add objects together and write addition sums using the symbols + & =. This week we used counters to add together. Some children tried to use their fingers, but this causes inaccuracies when completing larger number problems. If doing anything at home, always make sure the children are using objects EG: small toys, pencils or even teddies. Some children are starting to remember some of the doubles by heart without having to use cubes. This is excellent as it shows they are fully embedded. We also introduced adding zero to a number. The children loved being able to say '1 + 0 = 1, 10 + 0 = 10 and even 100 + 0 = 100!'

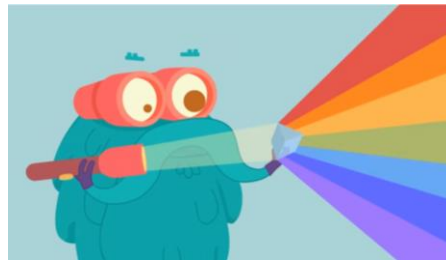
Understanding the World – How does the weather change & How do Animals and Plants Grow in Spring

This week we focused on the effects of spring weather on plants and flowers – April Showers bring May Flowers. We painted our own flowers and made flowers in a variety of ways. Next week we will be planting our own flowers and look after them.

We've also started learning about rainbows, how they're formed and made rainbows in a variety of ways – look on Facebook for pictures of our 'Rainbow Afternoon'. This song will help the children remember the colours in order and the Dr Binocs video will help children understand how rainbows are formed. There is a lovely little experiment that needs to be done in the dark you might like to try at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mruaPDxoEw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCPPLhPTAik>



General

Next week Y6 will be completing their SAT's. I will tell the children that Y6 are completing some special work so will say some prayers for them. Please keep Y6 in your prayers.

Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Turley