

Reception Newsletter – Friday 9th October 2026

RE

This week our focus was knowing that **'We must treat others in a caring way because God made them all'**. We've talked about us all being made by God, that we are all different and unique, but that God made all of us very special. We talked about how to treat others in a kind and caring way and the children came up with lots of different ways to do this. What was even more special was the facts that many children were trying to treat others in these kind and caring ways too. Perhaps you could ask your child how they can show kindness to other people in their family at home.

Our hymn for this week was 'Big Family of God'. The children love this hymn and many continued singing it while at play:

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



Phonics

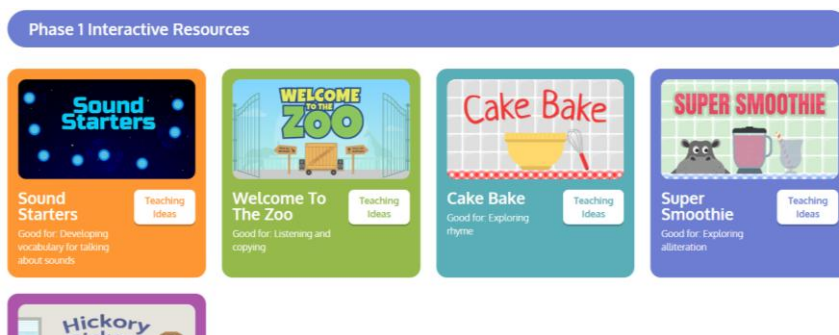
Wow! What a week! The children have thoroughly enjoyed starting our days with the Level 2 Phonics lessons. They have learned to recognise and say the sound of the letters 's', 'a' & 't'. Please add these 3 letters into your child's red sound book (sent home today) and share this book with your child every day to help them consolidate recognising these sounds on sight.

Parent Information Sheets for these letters can be found on the class webpage:

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

As a result, the children have also read their first word **sat**.

The children have enjoyed playing the game **'Welcome to the Zoo'** within **Level 1** on www.phonicsplay.co.uk. The school login details were sent home with the 'Meet the Teacher' pack. Level 1 games are about listening to and differentiating between sounds – a very important skill before learning to read. It was great to hear that some children are already playing these games at home. The children will not be able to access the Level 2 games just yet as we have not learned enough sounds, so please stick to the games in Level 1 for the moment. However, I will advise you shortly when the children know enough sounds to be able to play these games.



Reading Books

Your child has now brought home their first individual reading book and reading record. I have also sent home 2 help sheets for you to use at home to support your child in learning to read. Next week the children will be heard 'read' in school by adults and their Special Friends. Books will be changed once a week.

Please make sure this book and record in in school every day.

Literacy in Reception & Beyond

Thank you to those parents who joined me at the 'Literacy in Reception & Beyond' Parent Workshop. I hope it helped you understand how we teach children to read and write at St Anne's and how you can support your child at home. If you require any further information or advice, please do not hesitate to ask. The PowerPoint and Parent Handout can be found on the class webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/pupils/class-pages/reception/literacy-in-reception-and-beyond-at-st-annes-workshop>.

PE

I have been informed that the Aston Villa coaching will continue after half term. I know I had previously advised you that Reception children would not need a tracksuit, however, as this session takes place outside and the weather becomes cooler, you might like to provide your child with a plain black tracksuit as well as their shorts and t-shirt – this tracksuit is optional – sorry for changing the goal posts.

When the PE bags are sent home at half term, please wash and return this PE kit to school along with a tracksuit if you wish. Now that the children are using these PE kits more often, I will send them home regularly within the term time to be washed and returned. Please make sure these are returned before the next session the following week.

Class PE Day – Tuesday Aston Villa Coaching - Thursday

Thank you so very much for supporting your child in learning to dress and undress. This skill is not just about dressing – the children learn so much more from doing this: independence, having a go, asking for help, resilience, problem solving, sequencing, managing themselves, looking after their things, fine motor development, but most importantly giving the children a sense of pride when they realise they can do things by themselves.

Enjoy the Special Friends Family Mass on Saturday. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend this year, but MY Special Friend will be there – Miss Keedwell!

Mrs Turley