

Reception Newsletter – Friday 20th March 2026

Reception's Webpage

You might notice that some documents / videos have been or are going to be removed from Reception's class webpage. This is in preparation for our new website due next half term. Don't worry, the documents and videos will be uploaded to the new website shortly. The photograph from September to Easter, however, will be lost and not moved. You might want to look through them over the next 2 weeks. Photographs from the summer term will be uploaded to the new webpage.

Phonics – Level 3

This week we have learned **'or' (fork & short), & 'ur' (fur & hurt)**. Please add these sounds to your child's sound book and continue to practice regularly. Those children who make the most progress and are most confident are those who practice regularly.

The Tricky Word for this week is **'here'**. Please stick this into your child's Tricky Word book and help them learn to read this on sight. Again, please practice this regularly.

Please spend the Easter holiday reviewing all the Level 3 digraphs & trigraphs and the Level 3 Tricky Words we've learned so far. The children need to be able to read and write words using these sounds by the end of the year.

Handwriting

Our letter focus for the week was **'j' (formation rhyme = down the jet, around it's tail and dot the sun)**. Children often find this letter very difficult and reverse it to make it look like a lower case 'i'. Children need to make sure that this letter sits underneath the line. Please make sure your child forms this carefully whenever writing it.

Dictation Home Challenges

I am sending home your child's dictation home challenges tonight. There is a handout attached that explains everything. It would be good for your child to complete 1 or 2 challenges a week to help with their spelling. You might like to complete the same list twice if your child struggles initially. Don't forget to consider handwriting too. Please send these books to school every Wednesday for me to check on your child's progress. I will return the books by Friday.

Maths

Our number focus this week has been counting and making sets of **9 (make a circle and add a line – that's how we make a number 9)** and seeing the patterns of objects that make up the set of 9. We've also been learning to write the numeral 9 using the correct formation. Ask your child to show you how they can do this.

We've continued learning number bond facts of 9 orally so that children can say the following by heart: - perhaps use 9 objects at home to help:

0 and 9 makes 9
1 and 8 makes 9
5 and 4 makes 9
Etc.

Understanding the World – How do asteroids make craters on the moon? & Real Life Astronauts

We did another science experiment this week. This time investigating how craters are made on the moon. We made a mixture of cornflour and baby oil to imitate the moon's surface and then experimented by dropping different sizes and shapes of stones onto the surface from different heights. Ask your child what they found out or perhaps you might like to try this at home.

We also learned about real life astronauts. We watched a variety of videos from our class webpage that show Chris Hadfield and Tim Peak living on the International Space Station. The children were fascinated how water acts in space and how astronauts sleep. The videos can be found on our class webpage along with a variety of other space themed videos the children might like to watch over the Easter holiday.

<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/video-clips-spring-2/> . As the children are enjoying this unit, we will spend a few more weeks Exploring Space.

Stay & Pray / CAFOD's Lenten Big Walk

Thank you to everyone who came to join us this week with our Stay & Pray, but especially for joining us with our Lenten Big Walk for CAFOD. Thank you for supporting all our Lenten charity initiatives. It's wonderful to see such young children understanding the need to help others.

Uniform

Over the Easter holiday, please spend some time with your child checking their shoes, trainers, wellington boots and puddle suits still fit them. If purchasing new clothing, **don't forget to name them clearly** – don't forget pen washes off in the washing machines. During the summer term children will take their cardigans and jumpers off more. We do encourage children to put jumpers & cardigans straight in their reading packet, however this doesn't always happen. It can be quite difficult to match jumpers and cardigans to pupils.

Summer uniform is optional.

Boys – If boys choose to wear shorts, then can either wear their short sleeve shirt with the top button open (no tie) or a school polo shirt. If boys wear trousers, they should continue to wear their shirt and tie – no polo shirt.

Girls – During the summer term girls might choose to wear the summer dress. This dress is a brown striped dress – Information available from the school office and is not the gingham one from Clive Mark. The new provider the school sourced recently, manufacturers a dress that aligns with our Live Simply & Live Sustainably challenge. It is made using sustainably sourced material in a UK business and therefore reduces our carbon footprint. You might want your child to wear dresses from older siblings or friends.

Please label all new uniform clearly with your child's name – especially if something has been passed from another family

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 23rd March – Birds of Prey visit

Tuesday 24th March - OneLife Music Lenten Retreat Day.

Wednesday 25th March – Whole School Mass at church at 10am (normal drop off)

Thursday 26th March – Crazy hair / Lenten PJ's fundraising

Thursday 26th March – Celebration Assembly at 9am

Thursday 26th March – Parents Evening

Thursday 26th March – Break up for Easter at 3.15pm

Monday 13th April – Return to School