

Reception Newsletter – Friday 23rd October 2026

RE

Our main 'KNOW' statements for this week were '**God's family is called the Church**' & '**Catholics enter God's family through Baptism**'. We talked about the different families in our lives (class family, school family and families at home), ways we could welcome people, role played a baptism with Mrs D'Arcy and reinforced that we are part of God's wonderful family. During half term, you might like to talk to your child about their Baptism and even share photographs or video clips of the day.

Phonics

Our letter sounds for this week were 'm', 'd' & 'g'. Please add these 3 letters into your child's red sound book and share this book with your child every day to help them consolidate recognising these sounds on sight. The 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>.

The children are starting to learn how to segment and blend to read regular words using their Robot Fingers. Now we know many sounds, you might like to practice this skill at home using some flash cards on the class website.

The children have enjoyed playing the game **Buried Treasure** within **Level 2** on www.phonicsplay.co.uk. This helps the children develop confidence in segmenting and blending to read. You might like to try this at home or **Dragons Den & Picnic on Pluto**.

Phase 2 Interactive Resources



Nursery Rhymes

The nursery rhyme song focus for this week was '**Up, Up, Up, up in a balloon**'. The children loved singing the chorus and even started singing this while playing outside and working at tables. We made collage balloons to match the song which are brightly hung up in our class. There is a video of the song on the class website: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/main/pupils/class-pages/reception/videos-nursery-rhymes>

Autumn Weather Challenge

We are well and truly in autumn and over the past few weeks the colour of the leaves has become magnificent. For those who remain in the UK, take some time out in nature over the half term. Talk with your child about the changing colours and weather, the leaves falling and birds starting to migrate or hibernate. Help your child make collections of autumn objects (leaves, acorns, conkers, berries etc). We then ask that you make an autumn creation. This might be an autumn collage, person or animal using leaves, conker necklace, acorn snake..... I have put some ideas below, but I'm sure you'll have some ideas of your own. When we return after the half term break, please send this creation to school. We would love to share them with our friends and display them on our autumn area. If you can't make a creation, then please feel free to send in some photographs of your child playing in nature in autumn.



Parent & Child Reading Together

Thank you to those parents and family members who joined us for our first Reading Together session today. Our next session takes place on Friday **4th December 2026**.

Lives of Lost Loved Ones Memory Box

During the month of November, we remember the Holy Souls. At St Anne's we pray for those who we have lost and those who have nobody to pray for them.

Over half term, perhaps spend some time with your child talking about a lost loved one from your family. This could be human or animal. You might prefer to research someone from the local area or person from the past who are now in Heaven with God.

We then ask that you make a memory box. Simply decorate a box to represent that person and add pictures / artefacts to help you remember the person. Please send this memory box to school in the first week after half term. There will be a mass on **Monday 2nd November** in school at 9am to start of the month for Holy Souls. These Memory Boxes will then be delivered to church and be blessed at Mass on **Saturday 7th November** at 6pm. You are welcome to join us at both Masses. These memory boxes will be used during our prayer sessions in class and then returned to you.

General

This week we were busy making our Christmas Card designs for the PTA Christmas fundraiser. More information will be sent out shortly.

We have an age 4-5 pair of blue shorts that were in Travelling Ted's travel bag. Please let me know if they belong to you so I can return them.

It's been a long term, and I've seen the children become tired this week and the children are definitely ready for a rest – it's hard work playing and learning! Thank you for helping your child settle into life in Reception. I'm sure you'll agree that the children have had a great first half term together, have made many new friends and are starting to make great progress.

Have a wonderful half term break
Mrs Turley