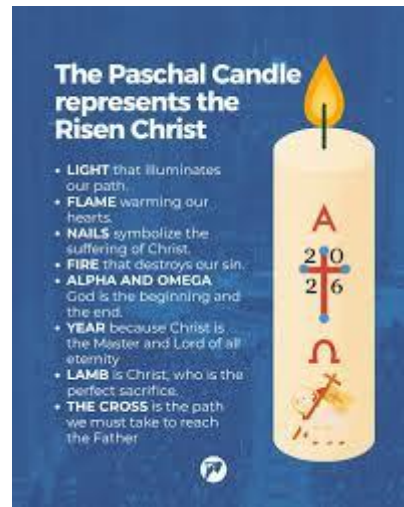


## Reception Newsletter – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### RE - Easter Unit

This week we have continued our joyful Easter celebration by investigating the symbols on the Paschal Candle. Ask your child what they can remember. Perhaps spend some time looking at the Easter Candle when you're next at Church or even ask your child to draw what they know.

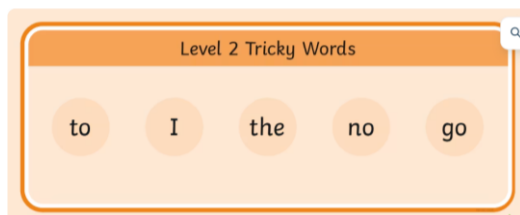


### Phonics – Level 3

Our focus this week were the trigraphs **'air' (chair & pair) & 'ear' (hear & beard)**. Please stick these sounds into your child's sound books and help your child learn to recognise these digraphs on sight. There are now only 2 sounds left, so we should finish introducing all the sounds by next week. The rest of the year will be revise Level 3 reading and writing before starting Level 4.

Don't forget to use [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) to help your child practice reading words using these sounds. You might want to do the dictation challenges using the Level 3 sounds now.

The Tricky Word for this week is **'here' & 'are'**. Please stick these into your child's Tricky Word book and help them learn to read this on sight. They will begin to crop up in reading scheme books. We have now introduced all Level 3 Tricky Words. Children should become confident in reading all the Level 2 & Level 3 words on sight and also be able to write these words from memory.



### Handwriting

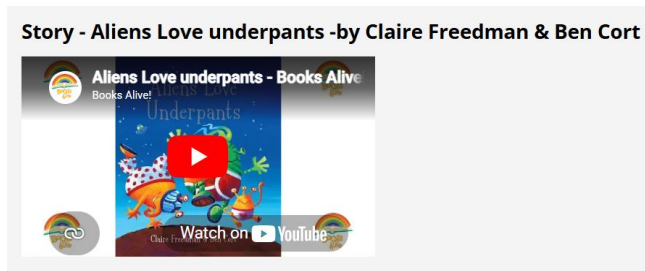
This week we continued with our 'Funky Finger Gym' using an elastic band stretched around our fingers to stretch fingers out and in. You could try this at home using a hair bobble. Ask your child if they can show you some of the warm up exercises we do before handwriting sessions. You might want to come up with your own. Although most children are holding their pencil using the tripod grip, the muscles in little fingers are still developing. Young children still need to access activities such as dough, building blocks, cutting, finger painting, sand play and digging etc to help them develop stronger pencil control.

## Maths

This week we've been learning how to add objects together, starting writing addition ideas and introduced naming and using the symbols + & =. We will continue to develop these skills over the next few weeks.

## Understanding the World – Exploring Space - Aliens

We finished our Exploring Space unit by considering aliens that might live in space through picture books. Our main story focus was 'Aliens Love Underpants by Claire Freedman. We have used our imagination lots this week by imagining, describing, painting and modelling our own ideas. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this week and the other alien picture books about aliens. You can find the story on our class website. Look out for photographs on Bluesky of our painted aliens display.



<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/video-clips-spring-2/>

## Dates for your Diary

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April** – Begin weekly dance lessons with Mrs Swann (within school day)

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April** – London Marathon Day (information to follow)

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – London Marathon Day (information to follow)

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May** – PTA Mufti Day for men's socks (information to follow)

**May** – BTK Marian Art Work

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** – Local History Week

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May** – Reception & Y6 Mass at church 9am. Please drop your child to church at 8.45am (information to follow)

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** – St Anne's Feast Dedication Day. Whole School Mass at 9am followed by our May Procession (information to follow)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Journey Through Time Day (information to follow)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Celebration Assembly at 9am

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Break up for half term

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend.

Mrs Turley