

## **Reception Newsletter – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

### Phonics – Level 2

We spent some time thinking about words that rhyme. Children find this concept difficult initially, but with practice, they will understand that rhyming words have to end with the same sounds (at this stage we don't need to consider the same spelling – just spoken sounds) EG: key & bee, frog & dog, cat & hat. You might like to play the 'Cake Bake' rhyming game on Phonics Play: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1>.

We have started Level 2 of our Twinkl Phonics Scheme. All information you will need is on the class Reading & Phonics Webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/phonics-reading/>. I will inform you each week of the sound focus each week. This week we have been learning the sounds for 's', 'a' & 't'. The children were exceptionally proud that this meant they could read their first word using their robot fingers – sat.

Tonight your child is bringing home their first individual home reading book. They have not seen this book before. These Level 1 books are designed to be books for discussion and story telling language. Some books have words whilst others have none. Any words that are there are not words children can generally read. They should be read to the children. Adults should be the role model in reading, ask the child questions and show the child what to do when reading:

- Sit in a quiet comfortable place
- Read the title of the story
- Discuss the picture on the front cover and think what the book will be about
- Open the book and work through each page
- Look at the pictures on the page – ask questions about the settings, characters or events – what, where, why, how & when questions. Try to use as much vocabulary as you can
- Use a finger to track / point to the words (you might want to hold your child's finger to track the words with them as you read)
- At the end of the book ask your child if they liked the book and why / why not
- Revisit the same book many times – children should read at home every day. This will help develop confidence and fluency
- Ask your child to tell the story by themselves – perhaps to a younger sibling or a teddy
- Write the date your child reads inside your child's individual reading record every time you read your child's individual reading book at home
- Always return the book and reading record to your child's reading packet and make sure it is in school every day
- Once books are Level 2, begin to work on reading skills using 'Robot Fingers' to segment & blend to read each word. More information will be given out at the Literacy in Reception meeting

Children will share their books in school every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday and some Friday's. They will either read to an adult or their Special Friend. Books will be changed once a week.

Our rhyme this week will be Hey Diddle Diddle. It was clear that most children didn't know this rhyme at the start of week, but with practice the children performed the rhyme with their group confidently to the rest of the class. There is a video on the class video webpage: <https://st-annes-sutton-coldfield.secure-primariesite.net/video-clips-autumn-1/>. It would be good if you could help your child learn a new nursery rhyme at home.

## RE – October as the Month of the Rosary & God made Me Unique

This week we continued our month of October by praying 'Hail Mary' every day. The children have enjoyed singing the 'Hail Mary' hymn every day <https://st-annes-sutton-coldfield.secure-primariesite.net/hymns/> . This is helping them learn to say the Hail Mary too. We also listened to the story of the Angel Gabriel telling Mary she would have a baby. This is where prayer comes from. The children also helped set the devotion to Mary prayer focus area this week and have enjoyed looking at it through the week. There is a picture on the Bluesky feed: <https://bsky.app/profile/stannesstreetly.bsky.social>.

Our Year 6 Special Friends joined us twice this week and helped the children pray a decade of the rosary. They showed Reception how to use rosary beads to help count the Hail Mary's.

This week our focus has been on how God made our faces. We have named different facial features including nostrils, forehead, pupils and eye lashes. The children learned how to draw their own faces and used the correct colours for purpose. We used the word 'unique' and talked about how we are all special. The children understood that it doesn't matter what we look like – our hair, eyes or skin colour – God made us all special. We will continue this next week and move on to looking at our whole body.

## Class Trip to AshEnd Farm

I have booked a trip for Reception to visit AshEnd Farm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The children will help feed and take care of the animals, take part in a nativity in a real stable and get to meet a very special person. Information has been sent via email from the school office this week.

## Literacy in Reception & Beyond Parent Workshop

Thank you to those parents who joined me today. I hope you found it useful in helping you support your child in learning to read, spell and write. More information can be found on the following webpages:

- <https://st-annes-sutton-coldfield.secure-primariesite.net/literacy-in-reception-beyond-at-st-annes-workshop/>
- <https://st-annes-sutton-coldfield.secure-primariesite.net/phonics-reading/>
- <https://st-annes-sutton-coldfield.secure-primariesite.net/handwriting/>

## Y6 Confirmation

Our Special Friends will be making their Confirmation on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Please keep them in your prayers.

## General

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October is our Whole School Harvest celebration and Mass at 9am. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please look out for information from Mrs Johnston as to how you can support our Harvest collection.

Have a great weekend  
Mrs Turley