



Parent Class Letter: Reception

Welcome to the St James' and Ebrington school family. This letter is full of useful information about the learning activities that your child will be experiencing over the next term. I'm very excited to get to know my new class and hope we have a super year!

Miss Karasinski

Big Questions

Autumn 1: How do I shine and flourish?

RE: Being special: Where do we belong?

We will be learning to talk about ourselves and what makes us special and unique. We will talk about our families and our bodies. We will become familiar with the school vision and values, classroom routines; practising how to sit and listen and putting up our hands to offer ideas. We will read books about relationships, special people and emotions. We will talk about our families and our family history.

Autumn 2: How do we celebrate?

RE: Why do Christians perform a Nativity at Christmas?

We will learn about important celebrations for this time of year, including Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas. We will learn about weddings and celebrations around the world. We will continue to embed classroom routines and behavioural expectations around school.

Maths

This term we cover skills that give a good foundation for maths skills and knowledge.

- Matching, Sorting and Comparing
- Talk about and make patterns.
- The numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Circles and Triangles
- Shapes with 4 sides.



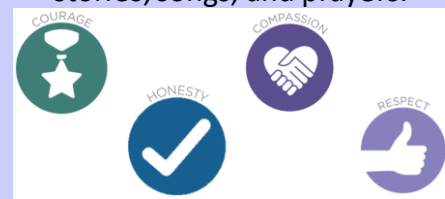
How you can help at home:

- Sort objects at home by colour, size, type
- Counting to 10 and 20 out loud
- Comparing groups which has more/less?
- Explore capacity at bath time
- Make and continue patterns

Vision and Values

'Be curious, love learning and grow together with respect.'

We have four key values that we celebrate and think about during worship time through bible stories, songs, and prayers.



We have worship each day and either come together as a whole school, key stage or class.

Phonics

This term the children will begin our phonics programme by learning new phonemes (sounds) and their grapheme representation (letters). We will also begin to learn Harder to Read and Spell words that support early reading and writing.

Soon, your child will bring home a reading book containing sounds that have been taught in school and a phonics flip book of sounds for you to practise together at home.

Literacy

Our Literacy this term is based around our key texts.

'The Invisible String' and 'The Colour Monster' are key texts for settling in, thinking about emotions, and connecting everyone together.

We will also be reading 'On Sudden Hill', 'My world, Your World' and 'The Everywhere Bear'.

We will be mark making in response to stories and discussing ideas, thoughts, and opinions about what we have read.

Every Monday we share our weekend news and write and draw a picture to talk about our weekend adventures.

Physical Development

Our PE lessons will take place on Thursday afternoon. This term PE is focused on changing independently and moving safely in the space/changing direction.



PE kit essentials:

Indoor - black or navy shorts/legging/joggers, white school PE-tshirt, trainers
Outdoor – black or navy joggers or leggings, a zip up hoodie and trainers.

Girls needs socks in their PE bags for when they are wearing tights.

Please ensure that your child's kit is named clearly. Earrings must be removed for all PE lessons and long hair always tied back. **PE kits are kept in school and will be sent home at the end of each half term to be washed.**

Reading

Your child will be given a reading folder. Each week your child will come home with two reading books and previously learnt phonics. These are their books for the week. Reading folders need to come into school every day so your child can be heard reading at school as well as at home. As part of developing reading skills we encourage children to read their books three times, this develops their decoding, fluency, and comprehension skills.

Folders will be collected in on a Friday for books to be changed and new phonic sounds added for Monday. Books will not be changed at any other time, so please make sure that your child's reading folder is in every Friday. Children should read and practise their phonics every night. This should be recorded in their reading diary. Please keep school reading books and in the reading folder.



Forest School

We are extremely fortunate to be able to do forest school each week with our lead forest schoolteacher, Mrs Monkhouse. Forest School will be every Thursday morning and will continue through the winter regardless of the weather. Mrs Monkhouse will be sending out a forest school newsletter with all the details for essential kit and clothing in the first few weeks of term.

Your child will need to bring in a named pair of wellies that can stay in school. Mrs Monkhouse also appreciates any extra adult support and volunteers are always welcome. You do not have to commit to each week or for the whole term. Please let the office know if you are interested in supporting Mrs Monkhouse at forest school.



Lunch, Drinks and Snack

Your child needs to bring in a bottle of water with them every day. No juice or squash please.

Lunch is FREE for all children in Reception. Please encourage your children to try and have a school lunch, there are three choices each day including one vegetarian option.

The menu is shared with parents at the beginning of each term.



Children receive a piece of fruit every day at break time and a carton of milk. However, if you wish you can send them in with a healthy snack from home.

Communication and Language

This term we will be focusing on

- Learning new routines,
- Answering the register
- Ordering our lunch
- Joining in with the daily check in
- Answering questions about stories
- Talking to our friends and making new friends
- Sharing weekend news
- Talking and playing with our new Year 6 buddies.

PSED

Our key idea this term is 'Me and my Relationships.'

We will begin circle times discussing feelings and emotions and how certain situations might make us feel. We will share and talk about people who are special to us. Later in the term we think about how to sort out disagreements with peers.

Other Information

We welcome parental help in the classroom and on school visits/trips. Is anyone available to hear readers regularly? Please contact the school office so we can organise a DBS check.

Please let the office know if someone different is collecting your child (Grandparents, a uncles etc) a message will be passed to the teachers.

Diary Dates

Important dates are emailed to parents via the weekly newsletter and displayed around school on prominent windows.

RE

Being Special: Where do we belong?

Children will have the chance to think about ways of belonging, to families, friends, groups, school. As well as how other believe they belong and part of religious communities.

Why do Christians perform a nativity at Christmas?

We will learn the Christian Christmas Nativity story and perform the Christmas story as part of our Key Stage one production. We will learn the importance of the story and how Christians believe Jesus is God's son.



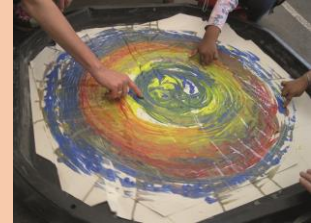
Expressive Arts and Design

Our Skills this term for Art, Music and Expression are:

- Colour mixing
- Patterns
- Self portraits



- Music sessions
- Nursery rhymes
- Harvest songs
- Christmas songs
- Singing Worship



- Role play
- Telling stories
- Making props
- Participating with Nativity productions

Understanding the World

Past and present

- Talking about the lives of people around us
- Thinking about our own life and timeline (born/baby/toddler/child)
- Creating family trees and talking about our parents and grandparents and siblings.

People, communities, and culture

- Learning about our local area and school environment
- Talking about our journey to school
- Thinking about our senses and parts of our bodies.



Natural world

- Looking for signs that the seasons are changing.
- Spotting signs of Autumn.
- Melting and freezing



Medicines and Allergies

If your child has a prescribed medicine (such as an inhaler or Epi-pen), please ensure that we have one in school. This must be clearly named and it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the medication is in date. If your child has an inhaler, we also require a named 'spacer' (e.g. Volumatic) to ensure that the correct dose is taken. In order for children to take any medication, parents must fill in a permission form from the office. Children will not be allowed to take medicine unsupervised under any circumstances.

