



Dear Families,

## Happy Easter

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break. For the first few weeks of the half term the children will be immersed in the world of the traditional tales the 'Enormous Turnip' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will be stimulating the children's curiosity and imagination as they explore the exciting theme of growing and healthy eating. The children will share and enhance their knowledge of seeds, flowers and plants. We will also be thinking about ways of caring for the beautiful world God has given us.

We will then move onto a theme of the 'Great Outdoors'. We will be exploring our wider community. Please encourage your child to learn their house number and address. We will be taking the children on a walk of the local area to explore where we live. The Children will learn to ask questions about the past and the present.

Our RE theme this half term is 'Ends of the Earth'. In the first half of the term the children will hear that Jesus was raised to new life on Easter Sunday. Before the holidays the children experienced the preparation for Easter.

In this next branch, our class will learn about the amazing ways Jesus continues to care for us after He returned to His Father. Before He left the earth, Jesus sent us a special friend, the Holy Spirit, to look after us and help us live out His love. We will hear the simple story of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in a powerful way, and how the early Christian community shared the Good News of Jesus with joy and love. We will also explore how the Holy Spirit is our friend, helping us to grow in faith and love for one another. The Holy Spirit is a gift to all believers, and we are called to live as a family and community, supporting and caring for each other. Our lessons will include learning about the special role of our parish church 'All Saints', where we gather with friends to pray, sing, and celebrate together, especially on Sundays. We will also reflect on how we are all part of God's big family, connected to one another, no matter where we come from or how different we may be. As part of the Church, we are called to live in solidarity, helping and supporting one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those in need. We will see that just like Jesus, we are meant to love, help, and care for each other as part of God's family.

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady - During the month of May we think about Mary the mother of Jesus by saying the special prayer 'The Hail Mary'.

## **Sunflower Competition**

Sunflowers really are a great plant for children to grow. The rate of growth along with the wow factor when the flowers come out is just somewhat magical. We will be planting sunflowers in school for the children to take home and care for. There is a certain type of magic with growing a sunflower. How something from such a small seed can end up as a plant that can be up to 3 metres tall!

When your child takes their sunflower home-Please don't plant your sunflower in the ground until May, when the soil has warmed up and the risk of frost has passed. Sunflowers like to grow in a position that gets full sun. They are not too fussy on the soil type either. Sunflowers, when established, can tolerate short periods of drought. However, to maintain good healthy plants, please encourage your child to water their plant regularly. We would really appreciate it if you could observe the growth of the sunflower with your child and record your findings in the diary provided or on tapestry. We will be asking for regular updates on your child's sunflower and prizes will be awarded in July for the tallest sunflower.

## **Forest School**

This half term, Reception will be going to Forest School each Thursday. Forest School is an outdoor learning experience where children explore nature, build confidence and develop practical skills through activities such as den building and nature exploration. It encourages curiosity, independence and teamwork in a natural environment. Please ensure that your child comes to school dressed in appropriate, comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. This should include jogging bottoms, long sleeves and suitable footwear for outdoor play.

## **Letter Formation**

In order for children to develop as writers, they must develop their gross and fine motor skills. Activities such as threading, playdoh, climbing, and building really help to support this.

The skills that the children learn in reading are easily transferable to writing. As the children develop their phonic knowledge, they also develop their grapheme knowledge (how the sound is represented). We will be working hard on this area throughout this last term. The children will be given letter formation-based homework in their blue homework book. The Children are provided with ample opportunities during the school day to develop gross and fine motor skills as well as letter formation. As the children become confident forming letters and blending and segmenting, they quickly begin experimenting with writing words phonetically. With the addition of their learnt red words, they should be attempting to write short simple sentences, e.g. I like my cat. I like my dog. Please support your child with this at home.

## **Home Reading Book**

Please ensure that your child is reading every night and that you sign their reading record each time they read. We suggest that your child reads their reading book at

least 3 times. The first time for decoding. The second time for fluency and the third time for comprehension. We love to read your comments in their reading record too, for example - how your child has found the story, words they found tricky, could they answer the questions at the back etc.

### **School uniform**

Please check that your child's name is clearly displayed in all their clothing. For PE (Wednesday) please ensure that your child has the correct PE uniform. (School jumper / PE jumper, plain black shorts / jogging pants and a plain white, round neck t-shirt.

### **Sun Hats and Sun Cream**

We are hoping for warmer weather soon, please remember to send your child to school with a sun hat (clearly marked with their name) and apply sun cream before they come to school in the morning.

As always, please don't hesitate to approach us with any questions or concerns.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Murphy, Mrs Flanagan, Mrs Valentine and Miss Smallman