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Spring Term 1 Newsletter

Happy New Year... We would like to thank you for all the generous gifts and beautiful cards given to us for Christmas. We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday.

Our theme this half term is the World Around Us, these are some of the topics that we will be covering over the next few weeks....

This half term, children in Reception will be getting to know Jesus. Throughout the RE branch, the children will be given opportunities to become aware that Jesus has a great love for each one of us and will think of ways in which we can show our love for Jesus. They will hear that Jesus welcomed and cared for many people. The children will use key religious vocabulary to talk about this branch including words from Scripture, hymns and prayers. We will enjoy exploring Scripture to tell stories about Jesus and how Scripture can make us good friends and work together.

We will begin the term by celebrating the feast of the Epiphany (6th January) which is when we celebrate the visit of the wise men (or Magi).

The children will learn that Catholics believe:

Jesus was born for everyone.

The Magi visited Jesus with gifts.

Jesus is God's Son and came for everyone.

Jesus came to show God's love and welcomes everyone.

Jesus takes care of everyone.

Children will learn that Catholics celebrate their faith by:

The Glory Be is a special prayer. -That the Church prays the 'Glory Be' as a response to the coming of Jesus.

Children will learn that Catholics live their faith by:

Showing love to everyone like Jesus. -We welcome and show love to everyone in our words and actions as Jesus does.

We are called to help the poor and hungry-Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people.

At home you can help your child by:

- Reminding your child that the gifts received at Christmas are a sign of your love. By saying thank you for those gifts we are also showing love.
- Sharing Bible stories with them. If you do not already have a children's Bible you might like to think about buying one of the many beautifully illustrated versions that are available.
- Visiting the church when it is quiet and lighting a candle and saying a prayer.
- Sharing bedtime prayers with your child and remembering family and friends who need our prayers.
- It is good to continue to visit the crib in the Church in the weeks that it remains there after Christmas.

Our theme this year concentrates on building the knowledge that God loves everyone. God is love.

Winter

We will be exploring the topic winter and will introduce the polar regions. We will discuss what they see and how they think it would feel to live there. We will carry out scientific investigations to see how animals survive in the cold environment.



Chinese New Year - Year of the Snake

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year the week beginning 9/2/26 and the first week back after half term. As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations, on Friday 27th February, we invite the children to come to school dressed in red and gold (yellow) for our Chinese celebrations. We look forward to exploring this special festival. If your family celebrates Chinese New Year at home and would like to share any stories or traditions with us here in school, we would be delighted to welcome you. Please let any of the Early Years staff know.



Phonics

This half term we will continue to revise the set 1 sounds, focussing on the 'special friends' (sh, ch, th, ng, nk, qu). Every Monday, the children will bring home a phonics challenge. Please return this book by Wednesday. Thank you.

Mystery Reader Story Teller

A mystery reader can be a parent, guardian, relative or close friend etc. who is willing to share a favourite book with the class. The role of the mystery reader is to remain anonymous until he/she enters the classroom. The day is supposed to be a surprise so even your own child cannot know that you will be reading to the class. We welcome a mystery reader any afternoon at 2.50pm. If you would like to be a mystery reader then please sign up.

School Fund

We do ask for a voluntary donation of £2.00 each week which goes towards enhancing your child's experiences in Reception. Last term we purchased a fantastic dolls house and small world resources, so it really does go a long way.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Murphy Mrs Flanagan, Mrs Valentine and Miss Smallman