

## Reception Newsletter – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

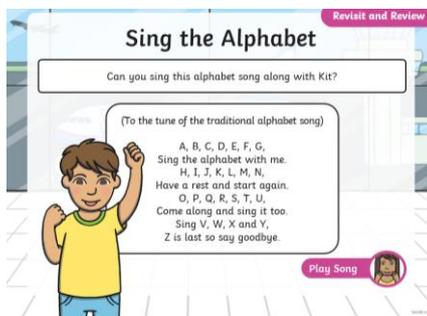
### Phonics – Level 3

Our digraph focus for this week have been 'qu', 'ch' & 'sh'. Please remember that a digraph is where '2 letters make 1 sound'. The Parent Support Sheets and regular words to match are on the class 'Phonics & Reading' webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/phonics-reading/>. Please stick these sounds into your child's sound book and play the corresponding games on Phonics Play website.



<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Please carry on learning the names of each letter – the alphabet using the songs 'Every Letter has a Name & a Sound' – links below.



<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/phonics-reading/>



<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/video-clips-spring-1/>

We have revised spelling to write the Tricky Words from Level 2 independently. Children should now be able to write the words 'I', 'the', 'to', 'no' & 'go' without having to copy whilst also thinking carefully how to form letters and use the lines. We have talked about the importance of taking your time when writing.

### Handwriting

Our letter focus for the week was 'd'.

The children are getting very good at knowing how to be 'Ready To Write'. Many children are doing this without adult reminders.

We are 'Ready to Write' by:

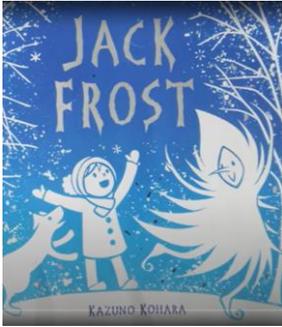
- Sitting on a chair correctly
- Holding a pencil using 'duck fingers'
- Holding paper / whiteboard with the spare hand – no hands on heads
- Forming letters or numbers correctly
- Trying to sit letters on the lines

## Building the Kingdom Spring Term 1

Thank you to those children who have sent in work around another faith. The children have shared them in class with others. I sent some of them home earlier in the term, but I was meant to keep them to display in the dining room – sorry!!! If you have one at home, please would you send it back to school so it can be displayed for the whole school to see.

## Understanding the World – Jack Frost / Chinese New Year

This week our story focus was 'Jack Frost' (see link below) along with the song 'Jack Frost'.



<https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/video-clips-spring-1/>



Over the past few weeks we have learned how people celebrate Chinese New Year. The children learned how each animal was named after a different animal, heard the story of Nian the Dragon, learned the importance of light and lanterns, painted dragons, made lanterns and lucky money envelopes, practiced using chopsticks, made stick puppets, learned some Chinese words, wrote 1-5 in Chinese script and listened to music from China. We finally got around to trying Chinese food on Friday which the children LOVED. May I wish Marissa and her family and very happy Luna New Year.

## Maths

The number focus for the week was '4'. The children are getting very good at being able to make 4 fingers in a variety of ways and say how they've made 4. This is the precursor to knowing number bonds and understanding simple addition.

## Safer Internet Day

We started our Safer Internet Day work this week with a visit from Mrs Rudge – the Online Safety Advisory Teacher for Walsall Authority. The focus for this year is the use of AI. For children in Reception, this is knowing that AI means Artificial Intelligence, that AI is a computer robot (not a real person), the difference between AI and humans and some forms of AI we use in homes (Alexa, Echo, Siri etc). At home, please help your child identify the forms of AI in your house. We will be working on this next week and trying to use Alexa & Siri in class.

More information around keeping your child safe online can be found on our school Online Safety Webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/e-safety/>

## Day of Witness – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 9am

You are invited to join your child in class to share prayer with your child. We will begin the session with a prayer service and hymn before moving on to design and make a collage cross. The cross is the symbol of Hope for Christians around the world. The tables will be set up with a variety of collage materials for you to make your cross design which you will be able to take home with you and display at home. If you are unable to make it, please feel free to send another family member. There will be other sessions you might also want to attend later in the year.

## Dates for your Diary

- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February – PTA Valentine Disco (Nursery & Reception 4pm – 4.45pm)
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – St Anne's Day of Witness 9am
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Celebration Assembly at 9am
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Break up for half term holiday
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Return to School - Lent
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Special Friends Family Mass at Church
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – PTA Meeting
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Little Kid Town Day in school
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day. Please recycle a costume or wear PJ's to support our Live Simply focus in school **\*Note the day NOT Thursday\***
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March – PTA Mother's Day Shop in school open
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Parent & Child Reading Together Session at 2.30pm
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – One Life Music Whole School Lenten Retreat Day in school
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Whole School Mass at Church at 10am (normal start to the day)
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Celebration Assembly at 9am
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Meetings from 1pm
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Break up for Easter at 3.15pm