

Reception Newsletter – Friday 16th January 2026

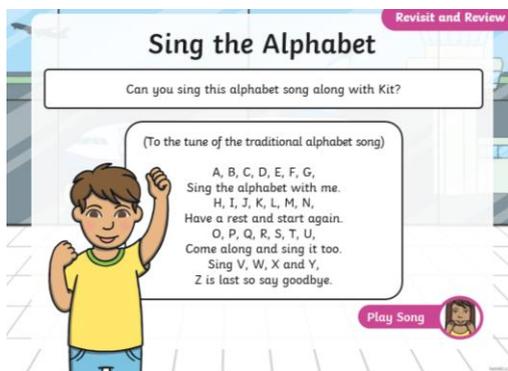
Phonics – Level 3

We've done it! This week we started Level 3 and the children are so very proud of themselves and very excited. Our sound focus for this week have been 'j', 'v' & 'w'. 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.

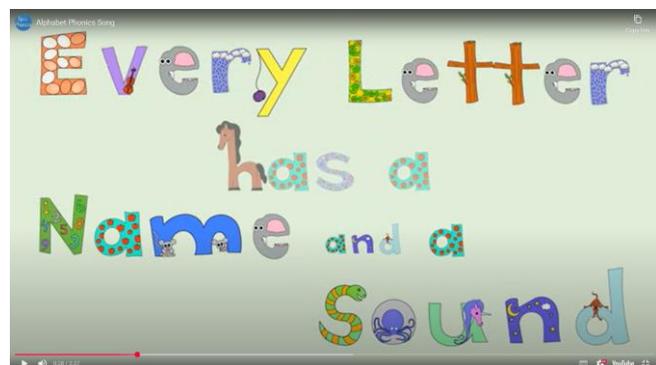


<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Now the children are getting more confident at identifying the sound each letter makes, we have started to think about and learn the names of each letter – the alphabet. The alphabet doesn't help us when reading, but there are links for spelling. By the end of Reception, children in Reception should be able to know the sound and name of each letter. There is an alphabet song from our Twinkl Phonics Scheme that helps with the confusion over 'l,m'n'o'p part and a fun song 'Every Letter has a Name & a Sound' that will help – links below.



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



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

The Tricky Words were 'he' & 'she'. Please stick these Tricky Words into your child's Tricky Word books, play the Tricky Word Trucks game on Phonics Play and practice whenever possible. There are flashcards you might want to use on the 'Phonics & Reading' class webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/phonics-reading/>. Remember, these are words you cannot sound out and need learn to read them on sight through continued practice in school and at home. I have spoken with the children about the link with the name of the letter 'E' to help read these words.

RE –Wednesday Word New Start

This week we changed out prayer area to green for 'Ordinary Time' in church. Our Wednesday Word from last week was 'New Start'. We've carried on thinking about making a new start at the start of the year and try to make the right choice at something we find difficult EG: Getting out of bed quickly, making good behaviour choices, doing as parents tell them, helping others, coming to school happily etc. Perhaps the children could use this as a time for a new start at home too.

Building the Kingdom Spring Term 1

For more information on what 'Building the Kingdom' actually is, please log on to our Catholic Life webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/building-the-kingdom/>

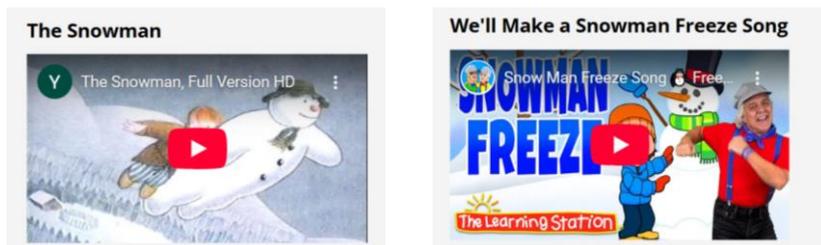
Well done to Lorcan for sharing his Chinese Dragon he made at home with the class. I wonder who else might want to share something they've learned about another faith with their friends?

This term we are thinking about other faiths. Children are asked at home to research a faith other than the Catholic faith. They can present their findings in any way they want. There are some simple videos on CBeebies Let's Celebrate you might want to use as a starting point or you might want to talk with friends with a different faith. I look forward to seeing what the children can share with their friends: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/lets-celebrate>

Understanding the World – The Snowman

Thank you to those children (& Mrs Long) who added a photograph of their snowmen onto the Padlets page. The children excitedly told the class what they had done. You can continue to do this if we have more snow: <https://padlet.com/aturley14/things-i-play-and-do-at-home-1168e62whxoc7lj4>.

Our text from this week was 'The Snowman'. We've looked at books of the story, sequenced pictures to retell the story and watched the video from our class webpage. We also sang a fun 'Snowman Freeze' song that got children moving that are available on our Spring 1 webpage:



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

Maths

The children are now getting good at moving objects to count them and are accurate within 5 or 10. We are now starting to identify 'how many' without having to count all the objects. This skill is called '**subitising**'. We will be working at this to the end of the year and learning to form numbers correctly when writing. There is a great PowerPoint that will show the children the correct formation of each number on the PowerPoints webpage:



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

Understanding the World / PSED / Physical Development / General

Thank you for starting to help your child learn to zip their coats up if they can't do it already. I know it's quicker to do it for them, but just think of the extra time you'll have when they can do it by themselves! Please keep working on helping your child learn how to zip their coats up by themselves – it's easier to learn to do this when the coat is off before moving to do this when the coat is on. There is a useful video below to help you know what to say to the children to help them. This skill will also help little fingers develop greater strength which will help their writing.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QaueOn-0pM>

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 22nd January – Rags2Riches collection
- Friday 23rd January – EYFS Parent & Child Reading Together Session
- Monday 26th January – Chinese New Year week in Reception
- Monday 26th January – Reception's eye tests
- Thursday 29th January – 'Managing Children's Behaviours' Parent Workshop led by the school Nursing Team
- Friday 6th February – PTA Valentine Disco (Nursery & Reception 4pm – 4.45pm)
- Friday 13th February – Celebration Assembly at 9am
- Friday 13th February – Break up for half term holiday

Enjoy a snow clear weekend!

Mrs Turley