

Reception Newsletter – Friday 17th October 2025

Phonics – Level 2

We continued Level 2 of our Twinkl Phonics Scheme with the sounds 'p', 'i' & 'n'. The Parent Support Sheets can be found on our Phonics & Reading webpage along with flashcards for each letter sound: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/phonics-reading/>. We also started to read 2 and 3 letter regular words using the first 6 letters we know using sound buttons and our Robot Fingers to help. They can be found on the phonics webpage: <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-annes-sutton-coldfield/UploadedDocument/824c6d92-54d2-441a-9096-afbcff56f5b/phase-2-sound-button-regular-word-flash-cards.pdf>

Thank you to those parents who have been helping their child with their reading books at home and send them to school every day. Please make sure your child has their reading book in school every day. If they are not in school they cannot read and books cannot be changed. The children who make the most progress are those children who read every day at home **and** at school **and** have their books changed regularly. Please look back at last week's class newsletter for information to help you at home: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/reception-weekly-newsletters/>

Tonight your child is bringing home their 'Sound Books' and 'Tricky Word' Books. They are to be kept at home and used at home with your child. Please stick the first 6 sounds into your child's sound book and ask your child to read through their sound book every day. Please then keep the spare sounds not covered yet in a safe place. I will inform you every week which sounds to stick into the sound book or the tricky word book once started. If you lose the master copies they can be found on the class phonics webpage.

RE – God made the world a special place

Our hymn for this week was 'Prayer is like a Telephone': <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/hymns/>.

This week our focus has been on how God made our wonderful world and the gifts in God's creation. We thought about the land and seas, plants, flowers and trees, the sun, stars and moon, birds and fish and the range of animals made by God. We learned that the first man was called Adam and the first lady was called Eve. There is 'The Creation Story' video we watched together on the class website: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/video-clips-autumn-1/>. We also learned that Adam was given the challenge by God to care for His world and the creatures in it – just as God is asking us to do too. They then spent the week looking after our class by picking up rubbish and toys and keeping our class tidy.

The children were introduced to 'Sofia the Sloth' who helps us care for God's wonderful world as part of our Catholic Social Teaching. We will use a variety of animals to help the children understand their role as being a Catholic in our world whilst at St Anne's. Please log on to our Catholic Life webpage for more information: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/catholic-social-teaching/>.



Caring for God's gifts
Stewardship

PSED & Physical Development - Looking after our Teeth

This week our focus has been on looking after our teeth. We learned the term 'milk teeth' for our baby teeth and that these milk teeth will start to fall out at some point between Reception and (probably) Year 3. We also learned that once our adult teeth grow, we will get no more if these fall out – so we need to look after our teeth. We thought about foods and drinks that are good for our teeth and those that are not. I reminded the children to try not to eat/drink too much sugar to help look after our teeth – do they remember the story I told them about me eating too many sweets after school on Wednesday?

We also thought about how to brush our teeth – for 2 minutes at least twice a day. We talked about the size of toothpaste needed (the size of a pea – our little fingernail) and had fun trying to clean laminated pictures of teeth. We listened to stories about visiting dentists and watched Topsy & Tim visiting the Dentist from iPlayer. There is a great song on the class video webpage for Autumn 1 too. Tonight your child is bringing home a toothbrush, packet of toothpaste and an information sheet for you to use at home. If your child doesn't already do so, this would be a wonderful opportunity to register your child with a dentist and take them for regular checkups.

Local Geography Week – Monday 20th October – Friday 24th October

Next week is the week we think about our local area. This year our focus is on Foley Woods. All children will be visiting the woods next week and looking at the environment. Reception will be focusing on animals in the area.

We will be visiting Foley Woods on Wednesday 22nd October. Children should come to school dressed as they do on Friday for Woodlands School – please note they do need to wear shoes to school and wear their normal coats for playtimes. Puddlesuits and wellies should be in a separate bag so we can change into them when needed.

School Mission Retreat Week – Sisters of Walsingham

Next week the parish of St Anne's will be hosting the Sisters of Walsingham who will be helping the parish on their journey of hope this Jubilee Year.

Building the Kingdom Home Project for October- Creation

Thank you to the parents who helped their child consider female role models during the month of September. Please refer to Mrs Johnston's communications about the next project around creation. It would be wonderful to see more children in Reception taking part this time.

General

Wednesday 23rd October is our Whole School Harvest celebration and Mass at 9am. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please send in tins / packets / fresh fruits and vegetables to support those local parishioners who would appreciate a food care package. The remainders will be sent to St Chad's Sanctuary.

Friday 24th October is our school Sponsored Walk. The children should come to school dressed as they normally do for Woodlands School. Reception will be completing their walk around the school field. I wonder how many times the children will be able to walk around the field? For more information about Sponsorship, please see Mrs Johnston's communications.

Have a great weekend
Mrs Turley