

Reception Newsletter – Friday 23rd January 2026

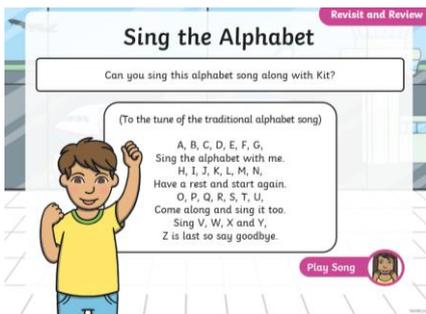
Phonics – Level 3

We've continued with Level 3 this week and the children are loving phonics sessions. Our sound focus for this week have been **'x', 'y', 'z' & 'zz'**. 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/>

We have carried on learning 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 **'we', 'be' & 'me'**. I taught the children that these words link with 'he' & 'she' from last week and also the letter name for 'E'. 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.

Handwriting

Handwriting is a very important skill in learning to write. This term we have moved forward to the next level and having a clear focus on learning to write letters and numbers using the correct formations and holding pencils using 'duck fingers' without adult reminders. We aim to have the basic skills solid and secure in Reception so that they are second nature to the children as they move into Year 1.



We now have a writing display in class to remind the children of the things they have to do to be **'Ready To Write'** and celebrate those children who hold their pencils correctly for writing **AND** colouring without adult reminders.

Whenever writing at home, please make sure the children are 'Ready to Write' by:

- Sitting on a chair correctly
- Holding a pencil using 'duck fingers'
- Holding paper / whiteboard with the spare hand
- Forming letters or numbers correctly
- Trying to sit letters on the lines

RE –Saying Sorry

This week we considered saying prayers for times when we make the wrong behaviour choice. All children were able to think about a time they needed to say sorry to God. We talked about God always having time to listen to our prayers and forgive us. Perhaps encourage your child to say sorry at appropriate time at home.

Building the Kingdom Spring Term 1

Please see last week's newsletter RE: Home Challenge.

Understanding the World – Keeping Warm in Winter

This week we thought about how we can keep warm in winter. The children had some excellent ideas. Perhaps you could ask your child how they could warm themselves up on a cold day.

Maths

We've continued **substitising** and learning to form numbers correctly when writing them. Our focus this week was number 1 & 2. 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/>

Dates for your Diary

- 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

Mrs Turley