

## Reception Newsletter – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Phonics – Level 2

Our focus over the past 2 weeks have been the sounds 'e', 'u', 'r', 'h', 'b', 'f' & 'l'. Please stick these sounds into your child's sound books and play corresponding games on Phonics Play. The children are becoming much better at sounding out to read 3 & 4 letter regular words – including adding the 's' at the end. There are several flashcards on the class website and the games on the Phonics Play website will help. You might also like to help your child practice writing the letters using the correct formation. By the end of the year, children should be writing most letters using the correct formations to be 'AT EXPECTATIONS'.

The Parent Support Sheets & Level 2 regular word flashcards can be found on our Phonics & Reading webpage along with flashcards for each letter sound: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/phonics-reading/>.

The children have now been introduced to reading the tricky words for 'l', 'the', 'to', 'no' & 'go'. Please stick these words into your child's Tricky Word Book and practice reading through these every day. In time the children should be able to read these on sight and then be able to write the words independently without having to copy them.

Whenever writing, please always make sure your child is sitting at a table comfortably on a chair and is holding their pencil using 'duck fingers'. The children are becoming more confident at doing this with a few reminders. I'm sure in no time at all this should become their norm without having to be reminded.

### RE – The 4 Weeks of Advent

Our hymns for this week were 'Stay Awake Be Ready' & 'Maranatha': <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/hymns/>. These will be sung in our Nativity Play

This week the children started to learn about the Advent Wreath and also made our own Advent Wreath in Woodlands School. There is a PowerPoint I used with the class on the class webpage for your information: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/powerpoints/>. Ask your child if they can tell you anything about the Advent Wreath and the symbolism behind it. EG: How many candles are there on an Advent Wreath? What are the colours? What is the name of the green leaves? What do the red berries remind us of? Why is the Advent Wreath a circle?

### Colourful Christmas Hampers

Thank you to those who have already sent in items. Their raffle tickets have already been added to the raffle box for the chance to win the purple and silver hamper. As we have had so many donations, we will be offering a smaller runners up purple and silver hamper.

The Colourful Christmas Hampers are a very successful and popular part of our Christmas Fayre. Every class is given 2 colours to collect items for these hampers. Reception have been asked to create a purple & silver hamper. Mrs Long is already planning how to decorate the hamper. We ask that every child send in some items that are either purple or silver or both so we can add them to the hamper. This could be chocolates/sweets/foods in purple or silver packaging, candles, smellies, toys, teddies, scarves, Christmas decorations, gift items, gloves & hats, mugs..... The list is endless and I'm sure you could come up with more ideas. For every item you send in to school, a raffle ticket will be added to the raffle box – 4 items = 4 raffle tickets.

**Items need to be sent in by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at the latest.**

## Trip to AshEnd Farm – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December is our class visit to AshEnd Farm.

This is a no uniform day. Children should wear their own warm clothing and their coat including hats and scarves. Puddlesuits are not necessary as this will hinder the children when needing the toilet or when eating lunch. Monday is currently looking damp so wellington boots might be a good idea or old trainers you don't mind getting dirty although most activities will be under cover.

A packed lunch and flask is needed for the day. The packed lunch should be in a plastic carrier bag so it can be thrown away after lunch. We will keep the flasks safe until home time.

Children will be washing their hands regularly, but please speak to your child about not putting their hands in their mouths if your child has a habit of doing so, especially after touching the animals. I will speak to the children about this regularly through the day.

## Building the Kingdom for Advent

On Sunday we begin the season of Advent. During Advent, we wait and prepare ourselves for Jesus. We are asked as Catholics to think of those less fortunate than ourselves and give a little to charity.

Thank you to those who have donated hats, gloves, scarves, socks and toiletries already. You can continue this throughout Advent.

Each week at St Anne's has a new focus. Next week is our week of HOPE. We are asking each child to bring in a tin / packet of food for us to donate to St Chad's Sanctuary. It's wonderful to see how proud the children feel when they bring something in for others. You might also want to send a gift bag with a present for someone.

## Vocations

Thank you to our visitors who joined us to talk to the children about their jobs on our Vocations Day today. Perhaps ask your child what they found out.

## Christmas Fayre

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December** is our annual Christmas Fayre after school from 3.30pm. Entry is free and will be via Reception Classroom straight through to the dining room. Please do not let children play in their classroom – it is a walkway only. Please leave prams under the shelter. You might want to bring a carrier bag for purchases or winning prizes. There will be teacher led games in the hall (please purchase tickets from me in the ticket booth to play these games), Unlock the Dosh led by me, Mrs Long's teddy tombola in the hall, Y6 Gift & Sweet stall led by Miss Keedwell in the hall, Raffle Tickets for the raffle & Colourful Christmas Hampers in the hall, food and drink in the dining room, tombolas in Y4 & Y5 classroom (doors by the PE cupboard), face painting / glitter tattoos, Christmas Crafts in the Pope Francis Meeting Room and most importantly a visit to Father Christmas in his indoor Grotto.

If you could offer 30 minutes to help me on the ticket booth, please let me know. I would appreciate a little help. I'm sure the children would love to help give the tickets out – and will give you a place to rest your feet!

## Nativity Plays

Nativity Plays take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10am & Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm. Tickets are available from Arbor and all information has been sent through by Mrs Miller.

Mrs Turley