

St James the Great Catholic Primary School

Friday 12.01.2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Nursery – we hope that you had a lovely Christmas. Our topic for this half term is ‘Terrific Tales and Rocking Rhymes’. We will be exploring traditional tales across the world and learning traditional Nursery Rhymes – please see the curriculum grid over the page which shows some of these tales. You can access the BBC CBeebies website to read and sing with your child (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/nursery-rhymes>) There are exciting visits to the South London Gallery and we would appreciate your support in accompanying us to these places so that the children can access these great outside learning experiences. We will provide more information about this in due course.

Early Reading and Phonics

On Mondays and Fridays, your child can choose a book from our reading corner with you to take home and share together and the Nursery classroom will be open at 8:40 a.m. for you to choose a book with your child. Please remain with your child during this session and write the title of the book, sign it, and draw a smiley face next to it in their reading diary. Children learn to read and write by using their phonic knowledge and to provide the foundations for developing key phonic skills, we will be undertaking daily listening and communication activities such as listening walks and playing sound games. The children will be developing their awareness of different sounds made with instruments and noise makers as well as singing songs and joining in rhyming activities as part of the daily routine in small-group time sessions.

Collecting your child

We understand that sometimes, it may be necessary for someone different from your family to collect your child at the end of the day. Please make sure you let us know at the beginning of the nursery session or later if it is an emergency by contacting the office so that we are aware of who will be collecting your child and their connection to your child. We are unable to let children go home with anyone who has not been named in advance or is not an adult.

Junk modelling

Junk modelling provides children with the opportunity to explore inventions, innovation and problem-solving through a sense of wonder. As this involves using everyday objects around the house, please could you bring in recyclable materials such as cardboard boxes, yoghurt pots and tubes (such as kitchen towels).

Spare clothes

As the children undertake messy play, please bring in a bag of spare clothes including underwear for them to change into should they get wet, etc... during their play. This bag will remain in school on their peg unless it needs to be cleaned and replaced.

If there is anything important that you need to discuss with a member of the Nursery Team then please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Thank you for your support.

The Nursery Team - Miss Diaz, Miss Donna & Mrs Yordi

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Talking about how the characters behave in the stories and why.
- Discussing how animals in stories help or don't help characters.
- Understanding how others may feel in different situations.
- Promoting friendship skills by encouraging children to play together and resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Encouraging responsibility and independence by assigning simple tasks, such as tidying up or organizing their belongings.

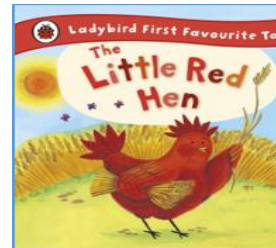
Understanding the World

- Exploring the links between our Parish Church and Family
- Encouraging discussions about past experiences and holidays.
- Sort materials into hard and soft groups.
- Exploring the concept of windmills, connecting it to stories
- Drawing simple picture maps of character journeys
- Role-play areas – home area and puppet theatre.
- Learning about animals in traditional stories through hands-on exploration.

Communication & Language

- Puppet theatre for role-playing traditional tales and nursery rhymes.
- Retelling stories and rhymes using stick puppets and masks.
- Follow simple instructions to make bread, inspired by 'The Little Red Hen.'
- Learning prepositions (under, on, behind) through practical examples.
- Acting traditional tales in small groups, fostering teamwork.

Terrific Tales and Rocking Rhymes



Maths

- Identifying patterns in the environment using informal language.
- Counting in order and reliably up to 5 objects
- Sorting objects into groups based on colours and sizes.
- Using mathematical vocabulary related to measuring – size, capacity, time, length, height.
- Learning a sequence of events cooking bread
- Exploring shapes everywhere

Physical Development

- Developing our GROSS MOTOR SKILLS creating obstacle courses and teaching children how to use equipment safely.
- Developing our FINE MOTOR SKILLS using mark-making tools. Playing with puzzles and 3D bricks and Funky Fingers.

Literacy

- Encourage children to participate actively in story time by discussing characters' behaviours and events.
- Sharing books and encouraging discussions about favourite parts or characters.
- Giving meaning to marks through drawings and paintings.
- Begin to recognise and write names during activities.
- Developing phonics skills by discerning sounds such as listening walks, playing sound games, and singing rhymes. Here is a link to practice at home with your children:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwgdgwx>
- Focus books: 'Little Red Riding Hoods', 'The Little Red Hen' and 'Goldilocks'.

Expressive Art & Design

- Enjoying moving, dancing, and ring games
- Acting scenes using stick puppets and masks
- Make characters from traditional tales with playdough.
- Creating simple models of houses.
- Making displays exploring colours and mixing them.