

January 2024

Dear Parents/ Carer,

**Happy New Year!** It is lovely to welcome you and your children back to St Charles and I look forward to working with you this Spring Term.

Our topics this term are Fairy Tales and My World and Growth.

**Personal, Emotional and Social Development**

This term children will be encouraged to develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies and manage personal needs independently.

**Communication and Language & Literacy**

This term we will continue to start each day with phonics. Children will be learning up to four new sounds a week and will have a review lesson on a Friday. These sounds will also go out as part of the weekly homework every Friday. It is essential that children continue to read and practise these sounds on a regular basis at home through reading daily.

For handwriting and sentence writing practice, a small red book has been sent home with your child. Each week, they will get five words that they are encouraged to practise writing in this book. These words match our phonic sounds for the week and will include one Harder to Read and Spell word. Please support your child to write these words, encouraging them to hold the pencil using the tripod grip.

For an added challenge, children can also write a sentence using each of these words. If they do, please remind them to start with a capital letter, use finger spaces and end each sentence with a full stop. Visual prompts are in their books to support this.

In Phonics, we will:

* Hear and identify the sound in words including digraphs and trigraphs.
* Learn to read and write Harder to Read and Spell Words and practise using these in short sentences.
* Practise letter formation using lead ins and lead outs.
* Sound out and write words and sentences with increased confidence.
* Continue to read stories as a class and individually, encouraging children to decode words and discuss what they have read.

Books are changed every **Monday**. We are unable to change books if we do not get the old ones back by the following Monday. Please ensure that your child brings in their reading folder to school **every day** so that they can read with an adult during the week.

**Mathematics**

This term we will continue developing a strong grounding in number. This is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically.

This Spring Term we will be learning:

* Addition and Subtraction within ten.
* Grouping and Sharing
* Number patterns within 15
* Doubling and halving
* Shape and pattern
* Calendar and Time

**Understanding Our World**

During the spring term, children will be learning from a broad selection of books, ranging from stories and non-fiction books to rhymes and poems. These will foster and support their understanding of our world and equip them with important knowledge, guiding them to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology, and the environment.

**ICT**

We will be developing our awareness of ICT software through the use of the interactive whiteboard, cameras, Beebots and iPads.

**Music**

In “Singing Skills 2: Match my Voice,” Reception children continue their exploration of singing

and pitch-matching. With focus on pitch-matching, children delve deeper into understanding

and controlling their singing voices. They learn to match their voices with different pitches,

fostering musical expression and vocal confidence. Reception students will be able to engage with rhymes, poems, nursery rhymes and songs, expressing their feelings and thoughts through music whilst enhancing language skills.

**Religion**

Our RE topics for the Spring term are ‘Celebrating’, ‘Gathering’, ‘Easter’ and ‘Growing’.

**Expressive Arts and Design**

Creative activities will be linked to our topic and include art, music and role play. Children will also have the opportunity to explore different media such as clay, play dough and paint.

**Physical Development**

PE will take place every **Friday**. This term the children will be working with coaches and focusing on team games. **Children will need to come in wearing their PE kit.**

We will also continue developing fine motor control including correct pencil grip and how to use the scissors safely.

**Important days:**

* Reading books are changed every **Monday**
* Reading books to be sent to school **daily**
* Homework will be set every **Friday**
* Homework to be completed and returned the following **Friday**
* PE day – **Friday**

We thank you again for your support, when school and home work together the children always benefit.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns by either speaking to me after pick up or by calling/emailing the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Almasri

Reception Teacher