



## St. Catherine's Nursery & Primary School

# Curriculum Newsletter



Year 1 Foundation Stage

Dear Parent,

I hope your child is having a good year so far. Things are really exciting in our school for our Foundation Stage children. As you know we have a planned highly structured curriculum for your child! We want to involve you in your child's education so this newsletter is to inform you of what your child will be studying in school this term. You can support your child by also discussing these curriculum areas at home.

### Literacy

#### **Phonics**

We are learning initial letter sounds s,a,t,p,i,n (up to Halloween) and then c,k,e,h,r,m,d (up to Christmas) We are focusing on rhyme and rhyming words and then syllables-how many beats in words.

#### **Reading**

Initially reading books are wordless but will progress to simple words and sentences. The children can have a go at reading. Discussing pictures is essential for good language development. Look out for key words and sounds in reading!

It is always a good idea to enrol your child in the local town library and borrow/read books with him/her regularly.

#### **Keywords**

The children will be learning 100 key words as supplied in their key word book (after Halloween). There is an expectation they will learn at least 5 per week. They will be assessed weekly. Children learn best in context so we will focus on a big book weekly and look out for key words and initial sounds. The children will be involved in modelled, shared and guided reading sessions reinforcing what they know and introducing new ideas.

#### **Writing**

We are learning how to form lower case letters and we are looking at capital letters, in particular the letter their name begins with. Every time the children draw there is an expectation they will talk to an adult about their writing and the adult will either write what the child says or the child will have a go at writing and the adult will then write what the child has attempted to write. Children will be writing on top of adults writing and copying underneath. More able children will be copying adults writing and copying from the board.

### Numeracy

We are learning to count to 10 and beyond. We count objects daily and join in with a variety of counting rhymes/songs. As we count objects, we touch them to establish 1-1 matching. We are learning numbers to 5 at least with an expectation of knowing quantities 1-5, ordering 1-5, and conserving 1-5 (5 tiny pegs is the same amount as 5 big diggers) More able children will be adding on 1 more and 2 more. We are exploring simple 3D shapes of different through play and naming them and then looking at and naming different sized 2D shapes. We are looking at full and empty - progressing to half full. Water and sand play is vital to establish this. We are looking at simple repeating patterns (red, yellow, red, yellow---) the children will copy patterns

and make some of their own. We are looking at size-big/ little/middle sized (The 3 bears story is just great for reinforcing this!)

## **ICT**

The children are learning to log onto our computer system using their user names and passwords. These are their initial letter name and surname together with a number e.g: anybody222. Please encourage your child to recognise and write their name. They will be working through a series of programmes designed to enhance their learning. They will also be taught how to use a digital camera. They will programme a computer-controlled device to move forwards and backwards- Bee-Bot.

## **Topics this term** (cover *Geography, History, Science, Personal Developing & Mutual understanding*)

We have decided to use a topic called A Time to rhyme-Here we are looking at passing of time, what we tell time on, clocks old and new, nursery rhymes, safety messages, P.D.M.U., creative writing, mathematical language.

We are also going to be studying the topic In The Toy box. This will be a lovely topic exploring the children's thoughts and feelings about toys

We will let you know what future topics we are planning in due course.

## **Religion**

There will be daily morning prayers in the classroom, due to **Social distancing** restrictions. The children will learn how to bless themselves and join in with simple daily prayers. We will learn the Morning prayer and Afternoon Prayer, Grace before and after meals, Hail Mary and Glory be to the father. The children will be learning from our religious programme-Grow in Love and they will learn about Bible stories. They will be learning about significant festivals- Halloween and Christmas

## **P.E**

The children will be participating in a weekly fundamental movement programme. Here they will learn the basic skills of movement, finding space, and safety. These skills are taught in a fun way through direct teaching and games. The children will also be participating in a music and movement programme where individual thinking skills, creativity and teamwork is highly encouraged. The children are expected to wear their PE kit and appropriate footwear (navy jogging trousers, plain white polo t-shirt and black plimsolls) to school this year, due to **Covid 19 health and safety guidelines**. You can appreciate the need for **clear labelling** on every item of clothing including shoes!

## **Homework**

Reminder: there will be a Homework Book 1 (Yellow) & a Homework Book 2 (Red) which will operate on an alternate week basis.

The children will be expected to complete 2 literacy based and 2 numeracy based homeworks weekly (starting after Halloween). They will be given 5 key words to learn and nightly reading will be set. There is a guidance letter regarding homework and special instructions for returning work this year due to **Covid 19 restrictions**, inside homework books. We would ask that you sign any written work before it is returned to school and ensure that all reading books are returned as they are in high demand! At times your child will get a game for homework or a talking activity together with key words and reading.

Homeworks will go home on a Monday to be returned to class on a Friday.

If you have not already given your email address, please submit this to Miss Doherty (jdoherty742@c2kni.net) at your earliest convenience. it is very important to ensure the school has this as we proceed through this year.

<b>General Reminders</b>
P.E. Times Wednesday morning- (Miss Hutton's class), Golden time- Friday Praise Day-Friday-Pupil of the week! Monthly Notes- All information is now sent as an ecopy. Please read as it contains valuable information about what happening in school.
<b>Health and Safety</b>
Monthly Newsletter. This newsletter is uploaded to our website <a href="http://www.stcatherinesps.co.uk">www.stcatherinesps.co.uk</a> or you can download our FREE APP to your phone and you will also find all the information there <b>St Catherine's PS, Strabane</b> We will continue to have temperature checks and regular handwashing/sanitising throughout the day. Children will be provided with soap, hand sanitiser and tissues at school. If your child has any allergies, please let us know. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's teacher (chutton763@c2kni.net).