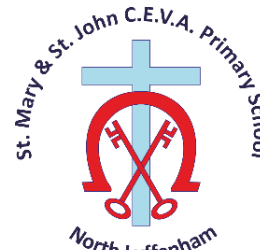


St. Mary & St. John

Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

North Luffenham, Rutland



Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Wilce

September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Autumn term 1 in Reception Class at St. Mary and St. John. I am delighted with how well the children are already settling into the class. We are very lucky to be supported in class this year by Mrs Pauls and Mrs Eshelby in the mornings and Mrs Breden and Mrs Pauls in the afternoons. We are all looking forward to being the first part of your children's journey through our school.

Each term we provide parents with this letter to give details of the upcoming term, key dates and the term's theme or enquiry question. This document, along with any other will be uploaded to the Reception Class Dojo page and the Reception page of our school website. To support our play based curriculum, I will also put up a daily 'Today we have' post, listing some of the activities covered each day for you to see what we have been doing. This provides an important starting point and prompt for discussions with your child about their day at school. Each new term we will sit down as a class and talk about the children's ideas and interests to support us with planning opportunities which make the most of these and link their ideas to our enquiry question or theme. If your child would like to bring in anything linked to our topic they can or you can put a picture on your child's Class Dojo profile.

This term our enquiry question is **'Who am I?'**

To start us off we will be talking about our families and homes. If you could please upload a picture to your child's dojo page of them standing outside their house we would be very grateful. Please can the photo show as much of the house as possible so we can talk about windows, doors, floors, garden and compare and contrast them with other homes in towns and cities. We will then display them in the home corner and use them as a prompt for discussions about where we live and the different types of homes there are. We are also busy displaying the children's family photos on our family tree, these are perfect to support our learning and discussion this term so if there are any that haven't made it in yet we would be grateful of them. We also follow a nature programme which has a new focus every few weeks and helps to inspire our learning, art work and play. We will begin by talking about owls.

Our classroom is organised into different areas to support child-initiated learning through an enabling environment. Inside, we have a home corner, water area, creative corner, writing table, nature table, construction area, small world, reading corner /story-telling area, light box and playdough area. Outside, the children have access to a digging area, mud kitchen, woodwork area, large crate and tyre construction, sandpit, wildlife area and large-scale water area. The children will be encouraged to take their learning into different areas and extend it through play. Our role as adults will be to support this play and therefore extend and challenge learning. There are also tables where we can support children through adult led learning in small groups.

To enable your child to access the indoor and outdoor environment in all weathers please make sure they have a warm coat, gloves, warm hat, wellington boots and a sunhat in school as weather changes. Waterproof trousers are also helpful for our water and mud areas and reduce lots of changing clothes. In their PE bags there should be a hoodie, track suit bottoms and plimsols. These will stay in school on their pegs. Please can all items, school bags, book bags, water bottles and uniform be clearly labelled. As some of the children are still working hard to recognise their names, a small key ring which is known to them can be added to their book bag to support them with finding their own.

We continually observe the children to gain evidence for assessments and to plan the next steps in their learning. We use a piece of software called Tapestry, to safely store information for the children and parents to look at. Parents have password protected, secure access to their children's learning journey. We encourage you to add your own observations by adding your own photos and comments to Tapestry. This creates a holistic picture of your child both at school and at home. Please keep your eye out for a letter with further details about Tapestry coming soon. If your child has been in Little Saints and you already have access to Tapestry, this will continue as before.

This year we are continuing with our 'talk for writing' approach in English where the children will be encouraged to create their own stories and use story mapping to re tell them. We will do this as a whole class to begin with so I will send home copies of any story maps we create. I would be grateful if you can support your child by re-telling the story with them, using the map.

Finally, can I just remind you that we are a healthy eating and nut free school with allergies in our class. Fruit is now being delivered for our morning snack but I am happy for you to send in an alternative snack and/or afternoon snack for when the children are in for full days. We ask that this is healthy, either fruit, fruit/cereal bar, crackers, cheese or rice cakes.

Please keep an eye on the newsletter for key dates as they become confirmed. For this term we will be celebrating Harvest Festival in the church at 9am on Monday 2nd October and parents are welcome to join us. A future date for the diary- Our class nativity is provisionally booked for Thursday 14th December at 9:20am in the church.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me on: louise.gamble@northluffenham.rutland.sch.uk, speak to me in the morning or send me a message on class dojo. We are looking forward to working with you and your child in their exciting start to school.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Gamble

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Let your light shine Matthew 5:16

