



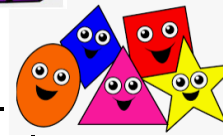





In addition to our half termly newsletter, please keep up to date through the [school newsletter](#), [school app](#) and [twitter page](#).

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
At home Pre-school children could practise making some firework sounds with their voice! You could also watch some fireworks from a window or at a display.			At home Reception Class could talk about fire safety and other safety issues regarding hot objects e.g. by going on a safety hunt around the house and talking about things that are too hot to touch.			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		To support developing positive friendships, perhaps Pre-school children could meet a friend at the park?				
14	15	16	17	18	19	
		Reading is so much fun!! Perhaps your child could visit Lichfield Library to chose their own books to read at home. They could choose books with rhymes or poems or non-fiction books as well as fiction story books.				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		To support your Pre-school child's maths skills you could go on a walk and be 'shape detectives!! Which shapes can you see? Can you describe them?				
28		30				
		Look at the school twitter feed to encourage your child to discuss what they have been doing in Pre-school / Reception class				

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2		
	Reception class children are learning about the story 'Supertato!' You could make your own 'Superveg' using real vegetables and then act out adventures with them!!!					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		YR visit to the Cathedral	Lichfield Garrick Trip!	Maybe you could follow the Christmas tree trail at the Cathedral as we begin the season of Advent. You could talk about the different things that you see.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
As we learn all about the Nativity, perhaps you and your child could read the story in their bible, or perhaps act out the story using nativity figures.					Break up at 2.30pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Christmas holidays				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		Christmas holidays				

## Pre-school News

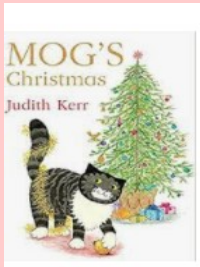
In Pre-school we are looking forward to so many exciting learning activities and experiences this half term! To support our personal, social and emotional skills, we are practising joining in with small group activities and ring games such as 'Ring a ring of roses' and 'Duck, duck, goose.' In communication and language we are

learning new vocabulary based upon the different experiences that we have. Developing vocabulary is a key focus in Pre-school and Reception class!



We will be building our core strength and cross body movements as we begin to develop muscle strength and look at large body movements, for example, through exploring a range of equipment such as the Trim Trail and through large scale construction outdoors. These large movements are vital as they will help with our early writing skills too!

At St Joseph's we support the development of children's real love for reading! In Pre-school we have a book of the week which is chosen by the children; a fiction, non-fiction or a poetry / rhyme based book. This includes us increasing our repertoire of nursery rhymes as we develop our phase 1 phonics skills. We read the story that the children have chosen, talk about what we can see and what has happened and also act out stories or engage in creative activities linked to books. It is so much fun! Please have a look at the blackboard by the Pre-school door to find out which book we have chosen each week so that you can discuss it with your child. Some additional key books that we will be reading this half term include 'Twas the night before Christmas,' and 'Mog's Christmas' by Judith Kerr. Please remember to take a book from the Pre-school Book Exchange to share with your child at home.



To develop our maths skills and knowledge, we are focussing on shapes this half term and discussing the features of shapes such as 'pointy' and 'round',

We will be learning about the changing seasons moving from Autumn to Winter, Bonfire Night and Diwali as we develop our knowledge and understanding of the world around us, and explore 'sparkle and shine' in art and craft activities! Another tradition and celebration within the UK that we are finding out about is Afternoon Tea! We are looking forward to inviting our families to join us for our own homemade Afternoon Tea at Pre-school on Friday 12th November at 2.45pm. We are really looking forward to learning about 'Christmas around the world' and performing our own little Nativity with Reception Class! The boys in Pre-school will be shepherds and the girls angels. Please look out for further details.... Another amazing performance we are very excited about is the Christmas pantomime that we will be watching at the Garrick theatre... More details to follow!



Penny the Panda is proving very popular this term and will continue to come home with children! We will also be introducing our Daily Diamond this half term. The Daily Diamond has some very important responsibilities: being the line leader for the day; helping set up the snack area; holding the door open for their friends; and carrying out any other small helpful jobs around the classroom on the day!!! If you notice that your child is the Daily

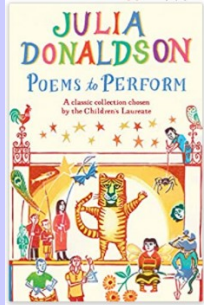


Diamond please chat to them about it. They will be wearing a Daily Diamond sticker!!

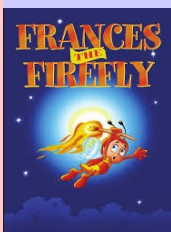


## Reception Class News

In Reception class we have been having so much fun learning and can't wait for more fantastic learning this half term! In RE we will be thinking about people who care for us; our families at home, our school family and God. We will also be learning about Advent and will have an amazing homework challenge in December - making our own Advent wreaths! We will be learning about the Nativity, singing songs and drawing a story map too! Pre-school and Reception class will be performing our own Nativity!! More details will follow very soon! We are also going to visit Lichfield Cathedral on Tuesday 7th December to listen to the Nativity story, and Lichfield Garrick to watch the Christmas pantomime on Wednesday 8th December - look out for further information coming soon...

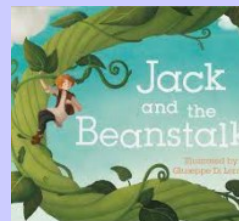


In Reception class we have a 'word of the day' and daily poetry / rhyme / singing times in addition to daily story times. This half term as part of these daily sessions we will be reading 'Poems to Perform' a collection of classic poems and acting them out!



The children will be learning about Bonfire Night with a focus upon fire safety; we will be learning about the importance of never touching matches as we read the story of Francis the Firefly!

We will also be studying the story 'Supertato' by Paul Linnet and Sue Hendra. Watch out! Evil Pea might be getting up to some mischief in Reception class! I have a feeling we may be writing some 'Wanted!' posters!!!



Jack and the Beanstalk is our traditional tale for this half term. The children will be reading the story in Monster Phonics sessions, acting the story out and writing captions about the story!

In mathematics last half term we explored numbers 0-3 and making repeating patterns. This half term we will be exploring numbers to 5. Key instant recall facts that we will be learning include:

- Confidently and quickly recognise numerals 0-5
- Sequence numerals 0-5 in order
- Recall the Ten Town number formation rhymes for 0 to 5
- Be able to partition numbers to five into two groups
- Count aloud to twenty
- Use practical maths resources including numicon, foam ten frames and unifix cubes.

More exciting learning this half term...In science we will be making predictions and carrying out experiments based upon our 'Hot and Cold' theme linked to the season of Winter! PE sessions will focus upon developing our cricket skills! In ICT we will be using our early coding skills - reading a map to find some Christmas treasure!