



# EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2017



## Welcome

We hope you all have had a happy and enjoyable summer break and have come back ready to take part in a very exciting and busy term. We would like to warmly welcome all our new children and families into the EYFS Unit (Early Years Foundation Stage) and indeed into our St. Patrick's school family.

### Parents as partners

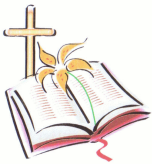
As a parent/carer, you have a very important role to play in helping your child to learn and we encourage you to be actively engaged at all points through school, but especially in these early days where we endeavour to work in 'complete partnership'. For that reason we communicate regularly with you, to keep you informed about all that is happening in the EYFS.

### Religious Education

During this first half of the Autumn Term the children will be learning about **God's World**.

They will have the opportunity to hear about the things that God has created and to know that He asks us to care for our world. The children will begin to appreciate that God made each one of us different and special and that he cares for us all.

Here are some ways in which you can help at home:



- Share books with your children about the creation story and about the plants and creatures that share our planet
  - Help your child to treat all creation with respect, e.g. caring for pets, not dropping litter, etc.
  - Talk about the changing seasons, the colours of autumn, etc.
  - Tell your child how special they are to you and to God
- Use bedtime prayers as a time to thank God for all the good things He has given to us, especially our families and the new friends at school.

### Topic

This half term our wider topic is 'All About Me'. The children are going to be finding out about: who is in their class, families and communities and what makes them special and unique. We will be reading lots of stories about families and non-fiction books about families, babies and our amazing bodies. We will also be exploring how we can keep ourselves safe and healthy.

### Activities for home learning

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- talking about their families and looking at photographs from when they were babies
- walking around the local area and discussing what they can see
- looking in a mirror together, discuss how you are the same and how you are different
- practicing putting on and fastening their coats, independently
- sharing books every night
- practicing numbers by counting objects around the home

- talking about the shapes they can see around the home
- playing board games, singing songs which involve counting forwards and backwards

### **Lining up**

Reception children are to line up in the playground and when the bell rings, two members of staff will come and collect them.

Nursery children are to come around to the shelter with their parent/carer and the door will be opened once the session starts.

### **Wet mornings**



On rainy mornings Reception children are to come into the hall, an adult must stay with them until the bell rings, when two members of staff will come and collect them from the hall.

Nursery children please come around to the classroom as usual and shelter under the canopy.

### **Names**

Please ensure all property, including; school uniform, coats, shoes, bags and lunchboxes are named so they can be identified quickly. We always try to return lost property, however this is extremely difficult if it is not named.

### **Book Bags**

It is very useful if the children have a book bag to put letters in (Fridays) as they often get lost in transit; little hands cannot hold many things.

### **Treasure Pot**

We ask for a voluntary weekly donation of a pound. This allows us to buy ingredients for baking, to taste different foods and have little treats when we have worked hard to fill our pot.



### **Coats**

Please can you ensure your child brings a jacket/coat every day.

### **Parent Conferences**

Appointments will be available to come and speak to your child's teacher to discuss how they have settled on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, further information will be sent home nearer the time.

### **Water Bottles – Learning is thirsty work!**

Please can you provide your child with a named water bottle, with a pull up spout. They will bring the water bottle to and from school each day for you to clean. This will ensure they have access to drinking water at all times whilst learning. If your child does drink all of their water we are able to refill it. Children must only have water in their drinking bottles

Thank you for your continued support,

The Early Years Foundation Stage Team (Mrs Middleton, Mrs Hallahan, Miss Cowban, Mrs Humpheson, Mrs Marsden and Mrs Dunne)