

# Reception in Spring 1

Welcome back and a Happy New Year! The children most definitely seem happy to be back in school. This half term we will be having a big focus on writing so keep an eye on Tapestry for some writing ideas to help improve motor control.

## Mathematics

We will continue to work through the NCETM Mastering Number scheme with a focus on Subitising, Cardinality, counting and ordering, Composition, and Comparison.

We will be looking recognise amounts up to 5 and if something is more than 5. Counting beyond 20 and linking numerals to amounts.

Children will also be looking at making amounts to 10 using 5 and a bit more as well as comparing amounts using the language equal and not equal.

## PSED

Children will be more considerate of the needs of others within the classroom and what it means to be a good friend. We will use Noi's example of how he looks after the storm whale to model this way of thinking. We will also consider ways to be more like Jesus.

Children will continue to develop their awareness of how to look after themselves making the right choices and keeping safe.

Reminders:  
Start time: 8:40  
End time: 3:10

Forest School is Monday

## Literacy

The text for this half term is 'The Storm Whale' by Benji Davies. This is a beautiful story about a boy called Noi, and his friend, the whale, who gets washed up on the beach one day.

Our focus will be developing writing short captions into sentences, thinking carefully about what sounds we can hear in words and applying them to our writing.

Children will also consider how the plot of a story develops thinking about the beginning, middle and end, putting events in chronological order.

Asking how and why questions encouraging children to respond in full sentences, expanding their ideas with because is something to practice at home.

## Physical Development

Children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills by playing target games. We will be trying to develop our throwing and catching skills by focussing on a target and carefully aiming towards it, thinking about how far away something is, how hard we need to push, where our bodies should line up, and how to kick a ball correctly.

Our daily routines will continue, using scissors correctly and carefully as well as mastering our pencil control. We will use 'doh disco' and 'squiggle while you wiggle' as a fun and interactive way to engage children in building their fine motor skills.

Snack money is £1 a week - paid in to class. Please remember to pay as this allows us to provide a varied snack every day

PE day is Thursday

## Religious Education

Continuing from the story of Advent, we begin by looking at the arrival of the Three wise men and their journey to Bethlehem. Moving onto Jesus welcoming children, and other stories from the Bible such as Jesus feeding the 5000 and considering the language used in the scripture to show how special Jesus was.

## Understanding the world

Through the text, our focus will be looking at who we are and where we live in comparison to Noi. We will look at life on the beach compared to Widnes, difference in temperatures (melting and freezing), floating and sinking, and why we have lighthouses. We will compare different lighthouses around the world, look at a local one, Hale Village, and think about Noi's friend the whale and their anatomy.

## Expressive arts and design

Children will look at making sea pictures, and thinking about what colours to use specifically, thinking about making shades lighter and darker.

We will think about how a lighthouse is built, making our own and even adding a light to the top..