



RECEPTION TOPIC NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1 2025



Knowing Me, Knowing You (2 weeks)

We will spend these first couple of weeks settling into our classroom environment, learning new routines and making and developing friendships. The children will take part in lots of open play and we will find out lots of fun facts about one another through sharing the 'All About Me' bags brought in from home. The children will take part in some 1:1 activities with myself to gain an understanding of their starting knowledge around maths and literacy based activities. We will be learning about our families and creating our own 'pebble families' to represent our loved ones. We will play circle games to familiarise ourselves with our new classmates and will enjoy a range of stories linking to starting school.

Oh No, It's a Gruffalo! (3 weeks)

Our next exciting topic is all about the wonderful stories written by the author, Julia Donaldson! We start the topic with our 'Sparkly Starter' where we will have a character themed dress up day. During this topic, we will read many stories written by Julia Donaldson, re-tell them using story language, sequence pictures and talk about and act out our favourite parts. We will practise using positional language to take part in our very own 'Gruffalo hunt' as our 'Fab Finish' to the topic.

People who help us (3 weeks)

We will end the first half term looking at the important jobs people do in society. We would welcome anyone who would like to visit Reception and speak about their job and aim to visit the local vets as our 'Fab Finish' to the topic; finding out through first-hand experience the role of a vet and what they do on a daily basis. We will be learning the story of 'Supertato' as part of our literacy and focusing on non-fiction texts during our afternoon sessions.

Supporting at Home

We welcome you to the St Martin's Family and pride ourselves on strong links between home and school. You can find our long-term curriculum overview on the school's website for further information on objectives and skills covered throughout the topics. This will be updated on a termly basis.

Tapestry is the main form of communication and is where we share the learning that takes place in class, both as a group but also for your child individually. Please do not hesitate to contact myself on there if you have a concern or query. You can also share any of your child's positive achievements on here and we can share these with the rest of the class e.g. moving up a level in a swimming group, taking part in a dance show etc.

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home:

A reading practice book - This will be a wordless, picture book at first and is to be shared together and promote a love for reading. Once your child has learned some phase 2 sounds, they will bring home books with words for you to sound out and blend together and then independently. Please read each day if possible and record when you read with your child in the home/school link book. We will also record any reading done at school, in this book. These books will be changed twice per week; Mondays and Thursdays.

A sharing book (library book) - Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. These books will be changed every Friday so please ensure it remains in your child's bookbag.

Diary Dates

Monday 15th September - Julia Donaldson character dress up day

TBC – visit to Stokewood Veterinary Clinic

Any additions to these will be sent out via school spider updates as and when necessary.

Many thanks,

Mrs Darnell