



RECEPTION TOPIC

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1

2026



Nice to meet you (3 weeks)

We will spend these first weeks of school 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. Our focus texts will include starting school stories, the colour monster (linking to recognising our feelings) and The Dot (learning about our own abilities).

People who help us (3 weeks)

Our next topic will see us learning about 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 have a visit from a dentist; finding out through first-hand experience about 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. Children will participate in role-play opportunities as we will set up our own doctors, dentist, shop etc.

All things Autumn (2 weeks)

Our topic to end the first half term will be linked to Seasons and the arrival of Autumn. We will begin by going on an Autumnal walk to collect items such as sticks, leaves and conkers which we can use in our artwork and in our mud kitchen back at school. We will observe the changes we see and feel, thinking about suitable clothing for an Autumn day. Our focus texts will be 'Stick Man' and 'The Leaf Thief' where children will be creating their own 'stick man' to label and create their own leaf character.

Supporting at Home

We welcome you to the St Martin's Family and pride ourselves on strong links between home and school. 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.

Phonics is taught using the Little Wandle scheme and children will begin learning their sounds from the second full week of school. Before this, our focus will be on singing familiar rhymes and developing a sense of understanding around rhyme and syllables. We will learn 4 new sounds each week and children will bring home sheets to consolidate their learning on a Friday.

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 once per week on a Thursday.

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.

Dates for your diary

- **Thursday 10th September** - 'Meet the teacher' session 3.30-4.00pm. Please join me after school in the Reception classroom as I share some key information to help you with your child's learning and start to school.

Many thanks,

Mrs Darnell