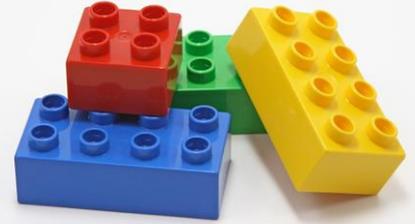


Inspire

Newsletter for FS Parents

Edition 1 Autumn 1 2015-16



Educating and inspiring every child to fulfil their unique giftedness within a loving Catholic community.

Hello and welcome to the first edition of our half termly newsletter. It will inform you of upcoming events and celebrate the achievements of the children in Saturn and Venus class. We look forward to getting to know you and the children throughout the next term.

Meet the team...

Venus base

Mr Barber (EYFS Teacher/ Assitant Headteacher)
Mrs Buckingham (EYFS Teacher)
Mrs Cannell (EYFS Higher Level Teaching Assistant)

Saturn base

Mrs Pedder (EYFS Teacher)
Mrs Percival (EYFS Support Assistant)

The role of the KEY PERSON



Your child will be assigned a Key Person who they will build a personal, emotional & trusting relationship with.

This 'special person' echoes the role of Mum or Dad at home. Each Key Person sets aside time every day to talk to their children about their feelings.

The Key Person approach helps children to become happy, confident and enthusiastic learners

Phonics Workshop

*How will my child learn to read?
How can I support my child at home?
Why is learning to read so important?*



Friday 16th October 2015
2:15 – 3:00pm

We strongly urge you to join us in the school hall for a fun and interactive session for parents and children.

New Baseline Assessment: What is your child capable of?

From September 2015 the Government have introduced a new baseline assessment for all children at the beginning of Reception.

There is no need to worry about the children as they will not feel as they are being tested. Everything will be assessed through their play and will be made as enjoyable as possible

The results will be used to plan children's next steps.

Programmes of Study

Religious Education (RE)

We follow the God Matters scheme of work published by the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. This half term will be exploring the 'Creation' story.

Phonics

We begin our phonics programme by exploring environmental sounds. We take the children on a 'listening walk', playing games with instruments and explore rhyme and alliteration. These skills need to be instilled before any letter sounds can be introduced.

Wake up, Shake up Time

We will be delivering a series of activities which are designed to develop the fine motor skills of the children to help them with their pencil grip. The children will complete 'Write Dance', 'Dough Gym', 'Activate' and 'Hand Gym'.

Reading



We deem reading as very important. It's a life skill, which allows children to access every subject taught in school. For this reason it's vital that we get your child reading as early as possible.

The first steps in the reading process begin with 'picture books'. These will be sent home shortly.

Guidance for reading picture books with your child:-

Encourage your child to open the book and turn the pages. Ask them to think about:-

Where is the story set?

What is happening in the pictures?

What they think the characters might be saying?

How do they think the characters feel?

What do they think might happen next?

It is so important that your child receives daily reading practice and this is only possible with your support. Each time you hear your child read a school picture/reading book please record the date and title of the reading book inside their Home Reading Record.

Once we introduce letter sounds, children will soon be able to read simple words. When we feel the children are ready, we will give them a bag of key words to practice with you daily. Black words should be sounded out using 'robot arms' and red words are 'tricky' and have to be learnt by sight.

We aim to change reading books twice a week. As we will regularly change your child's reading book and add to their key words bag, we insist that these are kept in your child's book bag at all times.

JUNK MODELLING: WE NEED YOUR RUBBISH!

We are currently running low on materials for junk modelling on the "Mister Maker" table. We would be grateful for donations of small cardboard boxes, empty yoghurt pots, plastic bottles, plastic milk bottle top lids, kitchen roll tubes and scraps of material. We would be particularly grateful for squeezey ketchup bottles.



We take pride in our appearance!

Please ensure your child is smartly dressed and wears the correct uniform.

Teacher's Surgery!

If you have any concerns or you would just like to have an informal chat about your child's progress, then please make an appointment with their teacher. Surgery day is Monday after school.

Physical Education - PE

It is important that your child has a PE kit and this is kept at school. It should include a shirt, shorts and plimsolls. This bag should also include spare pants and socks. Please ensure everything is labelled with your child's name.

'Getting to know you!' books

Please ensure all 'Getting to know you!' books are returned to school as soon as possible. We like to keep them in the book area for the children to look at.

Why not visit us online to discover what the children have been learning about our EYFS blog?

www.st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk



Foundation Stage (Reception)



Mr Barber, Mrs Silk & Mrs Hudson

Our aim is to make learning irresistible.

Children develop new skills, through a play based approach, by accessing a carefully planned high quality indoor and outdoor learning environment which excites, enthuses and motivates them. Children's interests are kept at the heart of all that we do.

REMINDER

Library books are changed every Friday!



It is important your child is on the INFANT playground when the first bell rings at 8.45AM.