



## St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School

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Bishop  
Otter  
Academy  
Trust

14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

### Courage

Our vision, as a Church of England school, is for all of our children to **be courageous!**

Our Reception children have made a fantastic start to the beginning of their school journey here at St Nic's. Occasionally, we need to support some children to be **courageous** as they come into school and join in lessons. If your child is anxious about anything, please do speak to us. In particular, we will not tolerate bullying in any form – so please be courageous and talk to or email us straight away!



We also want to encourage children to be **courageous** in their learning and personal development. This could be starting the recorder, getting ready for PE independently or reading every day.

In Reception, we really want to encourage children to shine in their learning and not be afraid ask for help when needed. With support from home and school, we are sure they will grow in confidence.

It's really important that children read every day. Please ensure you (or someone!) listen to them every day. We want children to be **courageously** positive about reading!

### Faith, Hope and Love

Our Christian values are not just confined to our times of worship, but permeate all that we do in the curriculum and beyond. For example, this term:

- Through following the children's interests we will think about and put into practice the school values of **faith, hope and love**.
- Through 'zones of regulation', 'empowerment' and personal, social and emotional development we will be thinking about how to **love** our neighbour as ourselves. We will also be thinking about differences and similarities between people and how, of course, we can **love** one another.
- We will be making Christmas decorations and in Expressive Art and Design we will be learning our Nativity play and thinking about the Christmas story – a story about **faith, hope** and the greatest gift of **love**.

The Reception team want to be **Inspirational, Inclusive** and **Innovative**. We are planning lots of exciting learning opportunities for our children. We want everyone to be part of the team and thrive. We are always thinking about how we can bring new ideas and fun to our lessons! We will ask for help from parents to enable us to be inspirational, inclusive and innovative – so do join us when the opportunity arises. We welcome your support from reading with the children to preparing for our Christmas nativity performances.

Kind regards  
Team Reception



# Reception News

A newsletter for Blue and Gray Whale Class Parents

Autumn Term 2023

## Welcome

Welcome to everyone after the summer holidays and a special welcome to all our new friends that have joined us in both Blue and Gray Whale Class.

It has been lovely to see the children over the first few weeks of school.

Please feel free to catch us at the end of the day to ask any questions you may have. Your child may come home and say they don't know what they have done, but rest assured they are very engrossed in their activities.

Each week there will be a 'This Weeks Activities' sheet which can be found by clicking on Pupils/ Early Years Foundation Stage/ Reception 2023/24 on the website and scrolling down to the bottom. This is to inform you what your child will be learning each week and offers you the chance to continue their learning at home.

We will start phonics soon and will be using the Read, Write Inc programme.

More information to follow.

**Reminder: Your child's water bottle must be brought into school every day. If the weather is good please send in a sun hat also. Please make sure that your child's clothing and belongings are clearly named too by writing their name in/on them.**

## **Baseline Assessment**

The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a statutory assessment. It provides a snapshot of where pupils are when they arrive at school.

This half term we have been and will continue to gather information about each child's individual learning and development. Once this is completed we will begin to target children next steps and learning. We will talk to you about this in greater detail at the Parent Consultations.

We use Tapestry which is an online learning journal to take observations of your children and communicate with you.

Thank you to everyone that completed the All About Me A4 sheets. They are so creative and the children love talking about their families and what they got up to during the summer. We will be sharing them in greater detail with the class over the next couple of weeks.

## **Birthdays!**

We love to celebrate children's birthdays at school and do so by singing and giving the birthday child the chance to talk about their birthday.

If you have any invitations we can help by putting them in the book bags (please note this will only be done in reception as everyone is new to the school). Unfortunately due to GDPR we are unable to give out class lists.

As we are a Healthy Eating School we are not able to allow the children to hand out sweets or cakes.

## **Phonics Reading Books**

Here at St Nics we use the phonics scheme Read Write Inc.

Just before half-term we will send home a Read Write Inc book for your children to share with you. These reading materials may be a sound blending book, a book bag book or a ditty book.

During the autumn term we will begin reading with all children. We will change their books regularly based on their progress.

Please can the children bring their book bags into school every day.

## **Book Cart**

We will also have a book cart in our garden for you to select additional books of your choice.

These do not follow are Read Write Inc phonics scheme and are purely there to encourage a love of reading at home.