



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all the support you have given us in aiding your child's education so far this academic year. We have put together this letter in order to support you in understanding how you can continue to assist your child's progress this term at St Richard Reynolds.

Please continue to hand your child any important messages to deliver straight to me or continue to email me at reception@srrcc.org.uk.

This first half term, all areas of learning will be linked to our topic "When it is dark..." Within this children will discover and explore all aspects of Space. The link then to Nocturnal animals will encourage a focus on non-fiction and fiction books. After half term our topic will commence with a visit to Bockett's farm which will submerge the children in all things that happen on a farm.

Religion

In our first topic **CELEBRATING** we will discuss that the parish family gathers for Mass. After visiting our local Church we will recognise key features in our Church: the holy water font and the aisles and benches where we gather.

Linking to our next topic **GATHERING** we will understand the different parts of the Mass: the gathering, the welcome, listening to God's Word and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.

Within our topic **GROWING** we will discuss that Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. We will understand that Lent is a time to grow in love to be more like Jesus and to look forward to Easter. We will listen to the stories of Good Friday and understand that Jesus rose from the dead at Easter. In preparation for this topic please send a photo in of you as a family

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doing something altogether that you enjoy e.g. going for a walk, going for dinner or playing a game

Reading

Children should be reading their reading books every night at home. This further develops their knowledge of sounds and enhances their blending skills. Books will continue to be changed on a **Monday** and **Thursday** with a free choice book on a **Tuesday**. As well as hearing your child read, we encourage you to ask them questions about what is happening in the book. By doing this, it will develop their comprehension skills and it is a good opportunity for them to use talk in order to engage in the story. Once you have heard your child read, please put a note about any successes or difficulties that may have occurred as this will make us aware that the books have been read at home. Reading books and reading records should then also be put back into the red book bag and we expect them to be in school every day. You now have your login details for BUG CLUB. At the start of each half term 10 books will be allocated to you child.

You should now have a full set of sound cards in your child's plastic wallet. We ask that you continue to practising these for short periods of time on a daily basis in order to consolidate the learning that has taken place in school.

Writing and Mark Making

This term we are encouraging the children to apply their phonic knowledge in their writing. Whilst we are still learning new sounds all the time, we are encouraging the children to attempt to write words that are phonically plausible and rewarding them for their efforts. There are opportunities to write everywhere in the class using pens, pencils, crayons, chalks; inside and outside. The children are encouraged

to write lists, captions for characters, design posters and write letters.

If there are ever those opportunities in which your child wishes to share something through mark making at home, we fully encourage it. For example, after a day out in London, a trip to Granny's house, a day at the park- these are all occasions in which your child could convey these experiences through mark making. We would then love to share them in school with the rest of the class.

Maths

At the end of the Autumn Term you received a maths pack which contained flash cards, a number line, a hundred square and ideas for you to do at home. Please do share on Tapestry anything new you see your child doing.

This term we will be:

- ✓ Counting to 100, comparing and ordering numbers to 20. Recognising and identifying odd and even numbers and counting in 2s.
- ✓ Estimating and matching objects to number sentences using the language "add" "more than" "equals".
- ✓ Exploring and identifying patterns including line symmetry in simple shapes.
- ✓ Understanding how time is measured, and recognising units of time: seconds, minutes, hours, days, months and years. Reciting days of week and using language related to time.
- ✓ Recognising and identifying common 3D shapes and begin to describe their properties.
- ✓ Exploring lengths, weights and heights learning to compare each of these using direct comparison. Pupils will learn to measure using non-standard uniform units.
- ✓ Describing coins and learning the value of coins by ordering them according to their value.

In class we are introducing the children to iPads to aid our mathematical understanding. The

children will engage in a variety of mathematical games and to enhance their knowledge. If you would like to do the same at home please visit: <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting> and feel free to browse and look at the different games the website has to offer.

PE

This term the children will be working through a space themed gymnastics scheme of work, where they will learn a range of gymnastic skills such as rolls and single balances.

Music

Reception will be developing their practical understanding of pulse and rhythm. Through learning songs and rhymes in class, they will learn how to keep in time with each other, sing in a round and develop their musical pitching.

Tapestry

We hope now that everybody has Tapestry up and running and that you are able to see the observations we are making on your child in school. If you are still not set up on Tapestry or are having any issues, please let me know. We will continue to use Tapestry until the end of the academic year and we ask for your parental contributions too. There will be learning opportunities and experiences that will occur outside of school that we will not see and it would be fantastic if these can be shared. For example, your child may ride their bike for the first time; help make a cake at home; they may write or create a card for someone's birthday; read to a sibling or friend; help make dinner; or set the table. These little snippets are always so valuable for creating an overall profile of your child and parental contributions are always greatly appreciated.

Examples of other learning experiences that could be shared could include:

When going to the park, what numbers did you spot? How many sweets did you have and how many are left? Where did you see words and writing and what did it say? Why did it say that? Perhaps you would like to write to Mrs Morgan, Mrs Stevens or even Miss McMullen about something amazing you did this weekend or holiday!

We hope that you find this letter useful. If you have any questions then do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Morgan

Important Dates

Friday 18th January – Film Night Fundraiser

21st January – Trip to St James' Church

Tuesday 22nd January – EYFS, Phonics and KS1 SATS evening

Tuesday 5th February – Safer Internet Day

Thursday 7th February – Peter Cowley E-Safety Talk for Parents (6.30p.m.)

Monday 11th to Friday 15th February – Arts Week

Wednesday 13th February – House afternoon

Monday 18th to 22nd February – Half term

Monday 25th February – Inset day

Wednesday 27th February – Arts' Week Celebration Event

4th March – Trip to Bocketts Farm

Wednesday 6th March – Ash Wednesday (Distribution of Ashes)

Thursday 7th March – Parents' Evening - EYFS Height and Weight Check -Lenten Art and Prayer Group starts

World Book Day – Lenten Fundraising

Tuesday 12th March – Parents' Evening

Thursday 14th March – Lenten Art and Prayer Group - Infant Mass – New Life (Parents' Invited – Reception, Year 1 and 2)

Friday 15th March – Lenten Fundraising

Thursday 21st March - Lenten Art and Prayer Group

Friday 22nd March – Lenten Fundraising, EYFS Hearing Tests

Tuesday 26th March – RMT Primary Singing Festival (choirs only)

Thursday 28th March - Lenten Art and Prayer Group

Friday 29th March – Lenten Fundraising

Wednesday 3rd April – House afternoon

Thursday 4th April - Lenten Art and Prayer Group

Friday 5th April – Lenten fundraising - Easter Liturgy

1p.m. finish

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