

September and October 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Poppies class.

Our first theme:



Firstly we would like to say a big, warm welcome to all of our new starters. We are all very excited to have you in Poppies with us.

This term we will be exploring many new and exciting things. We will be making lots of new friends, as well as investigating our environment and everything in it. We will be imagining, trying and creating lots of new things too, just like our learning pirates. These pirates will be helping us to understand how we learn all year long.

Playing and exploring – Pirate Al



(Exploring, having a go, engaging with activities)

Active learning – Pirate Pea



(Being motivated, concentrating, trying, achieving own goals)

Creating and thinking critically – Pirate Kat



(Thinking, having own ideas, making links, choosing ways to do things)



Kinetic Letters



St James Infant and Pre-school use the 'kinetic letters' approach to writing. It attempts to make hand-writing easy for everyone. In Pre-School we will be using many fun activities from this wonderful approach to make our bodies stronger. We will be lying on our tummies lots and will begin to form letter shapes using many stories to encourage and guide us. This approach encourages children to get to know different characters to help them remember how we form each letter, hold a pencil and make their bodies stronger. It is lots of fun!

Please see our Kinetic letters display on the wall in Pre-School, it shows all of the letter families.

If you have any questions we are happy to talk about this approach with you 😊

Phase One and Phase Two letter



Over the children's year at Pre-School we will be working through both phase one and phase two of Letters and Sounds. Phase one explores; environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral blending and segmenting. Phase two will then introduce the letters themselves and their sounds. This will be done one letter at a time. As the children's knowledge and sound recognition increases many fun activities will be planned to encourage children to hear, segment and blend sounds in simple words. Both phases of Letters and Sounds will overlap depending on the children's interests.

Cool counting.



Every week we will introduce a new number of the week. The children will be counting, looking for the numbers and many, many more activities with the numbers. We shall also work with shapes, space and measuring.



Listening Walk



This term we hope to go on our very first venture out of school. We hope to go on a listening walk in our local community; listening very carefully to all the sounds we can hear around us. Information regarding this will be sent to you near to the time.



Popping up

Please see our poppies display on our classroom door. The poppies can be used by you to share the children's great achievements at home with us. The children in the past have

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thoroughly enjoyed receiving praise for their achievements. We will make sure a copy of their poppy is put into their special books. Please use pens available to fill out a poppy flower.



As the children handle our books with such good care we would like to invite them to share Pre-School books with their parents at home. Please use the book shelves in the reading area in Pre-School to choose books to take home. Your child will bring a book diary home, please feel free to write any comments about your child's experience with books. 😊

Key

In our Poppies class we use a key worker system to help plan for and guide each child's individual development and learning. Each child will have their own key worker. However, all members of staff will be working very closely with all of the children too. Parents can therefore share information with all adults.

Please see the attached slip for the name of your child's key person.



ClassDojo

All parents have been given the printed class Dojo code or invited by email. Please log in yourself into the website to have access to your child's class profile. We shall be using it as a reward and to communicate with you.



Reminders

- **Pre-School doors open for the morning session at 8.50 am. Please ensure all children are present by 9.00am for our day to start. For afternoon children the doors open at 12.05pm, please ensure all children are present by 12.15pm for our afternoon to start.** 😊

- Home learning – We would ask that all home learning is returned to Pre-School by Monday each week.
- Please can we have a spare set of clothes for children in bags on their pegs in case they get messy/wet during their learning.
- Please could we ask that all children have a pair of wellies here at Pre-School. They can then pop these on to wear outside in our outdoor area. This will avoid children not being able to access this area. We will be using our outdoor space in all weathers.

Thank you ☺

Dates for your calendar:

- **26th September 9:00 am – 9:20 am – curriculum meeting**
- **12th October –Harvest Festival**

Best Wishes,

Mrs Karus, Mrs Cox, Miss Davison, Mrs Shafto

Your child's key worker is Mrs Karus.

Your child's key worker is Mrs Cox.

Your child's key worker is Miss Davison.

Your child's key worker is Mrs Shafto.