

FOUNDATION STAGE SPRING TERM 2018



DIARY DATES

- **WHOLE SCHOOL MASS**
THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 9AM.
- **NSPCC NUMBER DAY**
FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY.
- **INSET DAY FRIDAY**
16TH FEBRUARY.
- **HALF TERM WEEK COMMENCES MONDAY**
19TH FEBRUARY.
- **WORLD BOOK DAY**
THURSDAY 1ST MARCH.
- **FOUNDATION STAGE VISIT TO NOTTINGHAM LAKESIDE ART GALLERY WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH (MORE DETAILS TBC)**
- **FS2 PARENT CONSULTATIONS TUESDAY 13TH AND WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH.**
- **HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS FROM MONDAY 26TH MARCH.**
- **LAST DAY OF TERM THURSDAY 29TH MARCH.**

OTHER INFORMATION

- **WE ASK FOR A CONTRIBUTION OF £2 PER TERM PER CHILD TO COVER THE COST OF ITEMS SUCH AS COOKING INGREDIENTS. PLEASE BRING THIS IN ASAP IN AN ENVELOPE WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON IT.**
- **P.E IS EVERY MONDAY.**

Happy New Year from all staff in the Foundation Stage and we offer a very warm welcome to our new children starting this term and of course, a warm welcome back to our existing children. We are continuing the Time to

Dig, Discover, Make and Master

where, this term, we will be off on '**A Voyage of Discovery to China and Ghana!**'

Our R.E learning will, as always, be at the heart of everything we do with topics covering

- **Celebrating**—focusing on the exploration of different celebrations in church including the story of the Presentation of Jesus.
- **Gathering**—focusing on how the parish family gathers together for Mass and the story of Jesus gathering the children to speak to them.
- **Growing**—focusing on the time of Lent where we grow in love to be more like Jesus and think about the Easter Story.



Following on from the children's interests in stories and books, we will base our learning about key texts this term linked to our over-arching theme. We will begin the term with a particular focus on sharing stories together and developing good reading behaviours in children using the texts 'Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Can You See?' by Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle and 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell.

As the term develops, our voyage of discovery will take us to China, where we will move onto using non-fiction texts and atlases to find out more about the country of China and become familiar with some Chinese Fable Stories, and the story of Chinese New Year.

Building up to the celebration of Chinese New Year will form the basis of learning for the latter part of this half term. Children will discover how people celebrate Chinese New Year, develop creative dances and pieces of music linked to China and Chinese New Year and role-play in the Chinese restaurant.

Children will explore Chinese brush painting and use paint brushes themselves to create different brush strokes inspired by Chinese art. They will develop their skills of using tools such as hole punchers and split pins to create a moving Chinese dragon for the New Year celebration. As it is the year of the Dog, children will be visited by some furry friends in the Foundation Stage and create poems about dogs.



After half term, we will continue on our voyage to discover Ghana and everything it has to offer, linking with the whole school work towards Building Hope in Bunkpurugu.

In a similar pattern to the discovery of China, children will use technology and non-fiction texts to find out more about the country of Ghana itself and listen to Miss Lancashire's stories of her experiences of teaching in Ghana. Stories will be at the heart of learning once again, where we will become familiar with the Anansi Stories which are traditional to Ghana and explore the morals associated with these stories to support children's Personal Social and Emotional development. We will be taking part in an exciting story-telling and visual arts workshop linked to the Anansi Stories and led by a professional story-teller at Nottingham Lakeside gallery (more details to follow in due course).

Children will be encouraged to compare and contrast the different locations they have discovered this term using a scientific, investigative approach. They will use a range of technology to support them in making observations and judgements about the different countries such as Panorama 360.

Towards the end of the term, we will focus on growing linked to Lent as a time to grow to be more like Jesus. We will explore the story of Jaspers Beanstalk and investigate growing different plants at school.

Deepening children's understanding of basic mathematical concepts will run throughout everything we do this term. We will be focusing on developing Mastery in Maths for young children by deepening the children's understanding of the numbers 5-10. We will be using our new 'counting collections' and approaches developed within the projects we are a part of with Nottingham City this year.



Helping at Home

There are lots of things you can do to support your child with their learning at home.

- Enjoy stories with your child. Talk to them about what is happening, discuss characters, predict what could happen next and re-tell the story together after you have finished reading.
- Talk to you child. The more you talk, the more vocabulary they will acquire and the more this will support them in all areas at school.
- If your child has a reading book, spend 10 minutes each night listening to them read a couple of pages. Support them in using their phonics skills to blend words and recognise Common Exception Words within the text. Always ask them about what they have read afterwards to check their understanding.
- Maths is everywhere! Spotting numbers, shapes and patterns in the environment, counting out the correct number of plates for the dinner table, sharing sweets equally with their siblings or friends, the list is endless! Don't worry about using large numbers; if children have a really secure concept of numbers to 10 then the rest will follow.

As usual, Forest School sessions at Glapton Wood led by both Miss Chapman and Miss Lancashire will continue to run for all FS2 children and for the older children in FS1 this term. The younger children in FS1 will join in later during the year once they are settled within the Unit.

We will be journeying up to the woods together, ready for more fun and adventure!

There will be more detailed information nearer the start date.

PLEASE COME AND TALK TO US ABOUT ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS BUSY AND EXCITING TERM!