

February 2010 Newsletter P.1.

Dear Parents:

Mid-term is only around the corner. We can see lots of parents are making the effort to promote independence which is encouraging your child's personal development.

Well done!

We are now half way through the school year. All the children are familiar with everyday routines and know how to line up by themselves. Children are expected to be on the yard and line up when the bell goes at 8.55am. As there will always be a teacher on duty from 8.45am please be assured that your child is safe and is being supervised. On wet mornings the children should line up in the hall.

Focus for the month: Our main topic for this month will be People who help us. We will be focusing on the job of the Fire-fighter and people who work in the Hospital.

Writing: Writing the letters in our names and naming the letters in our name. Holding a pencil. Writing from left to right. Proper formation of the letters, s a t i p n c k e h m r d. Encourage your child to write at their own level: some might be able to begin writing familiar key words, is, and, am, like, while others need to focus on letter formation. See if your child can write in response to the letter name or sound. Use as many different writing tools (markers, gel pens, chalk, play-dough) as possible. Some children continue to need practise to improve their manipulative skills. Give them lots of opportunities to use scissors.

Reading: The children are learning about title, page, print, picture, author, illustrator, words, full stop etc. Talk about these things when a book goes home. We are learning to point to the words on the page as we read (matching spoken to written word) and using the picture to help understand what the text is saying. Continue to listen to them sing alphabet songs as well as the Jolly Phonics jingles and actions. We are focusing on the letters h m r d and the sound they make in words.

Talking and listening: Talk about people in uniform and "people who help us" with your child. Do they know the names of these people and the things they do. The Role play corner will give the children opportunities to dramatise situations involving Fire-fighters and Hospital. Encourage your child to talk about what they have done in the Role-play corner.

Maths: Keep counting from different start points as well as forwards and backwards. Clap and count, slap knees and count, jump and count. Look out for numbers around you in shops, front doors, cars etc. We will be talking about Length and Time.

World around us: People who help us. What do they wear and why? Vocabulary relating to objects and the specific jobs they do in the community.

Physical Development: Encourage your child to be physically active, and practise ball control, handling and kicking skills, and hopping. Remember to use your “Fit for Fun” book that was sent home in the first term for further ideas.

The Arts

The children will be involved in singing songs, creating Music and listening to sounds. Their Art work will be linked to People who help us and will further develop their cutting and creative skills.

Religion: Children will be taking home their Alive-o books. Talk to your child about their homework page. St. Brigid/ Ash Wednesday and Lent.

PDMU We continue to expect children to take care of their own belongings and to take responsibility for their behaviour. As you know we have been encouraging the children to be in the line at five to nine each morning. We appreciate that things can happen to delay you in the morning but we would ask you to remember how difficult it is for children who don't get the sticker along with their classmates each morning. You are invited to a celebration activity in recognition of the “Be in the line” scheme on Friday February 12th. Details of this have already been forwarded to you.

Mid term is the week of February 15th. School resumes February 22nd
Other notable dates can be found on the school website www.holyfamily-ps.org.uk
Enjoy the mid-term break!

Thank-you

The P.1. teachers.