

Reception News

Dear families,

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school on Tuesday – we're sure they've all grown!

We may have only been at school for 4 days, but as ever, it's been busy. We have now finished teaching Level 2 phonemes; next week we begin Level 3 which encompasses the final single letter sounds before concentrating on digraphs and trigraphs. We have shared on Seesaw an 'Action Mat' to support the consolidation of these sounds. Do please keep practising with your child, adding in the new flashcards each week.

Rehearsals have begun in earnest this week for our Nativity play, which will be performed on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th December – further details to follow. We have considered the allocation of roles very carefully using our knowledge and experience of this exciting challenge for young children. Each child will be part of our rousing choir, and each class will contribute a group dance within the narrative. Some children will have acting and movement-based roles, and some will have a speaking part. Communication and Language is a Prime Area of the EYFS Framework, and our aim is to encourage the children to gain confidence speaking to increasingly large audiences. Some children are already keen to perform to a large group, such as our friends in KS1, as well as an audience of adults. For others, this is an overwhelming expectation and can cause worry and anxiety. We want the children to enjoy their first St Faith's production, as we know from watching the children on their path through the school, their confidence will build and flourish with gentle and nurturing support.

Some children have brought home a line to practise with your help, to help them begin to memorise and gain confidence performing. Some children have brought home a costume request; please can these be brought into school at the earliest opportunity. For children without a costume request, please do not worry - we have a large supply of costumes in school, which we fit and allocate as needed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Our Maths focus this week has been on circles and triangles – identifying and explaining the properties of these shapes. For homework this week we would like you to explore the challenge below. You will need some play dough and a selection of small objects that are suitable for pressing into the playdough, such as a log slice, beads, buttons, cardboard tubes, boxes, cotton reels and plastic 3D shapes.



Press the objects into the modelling dough to reveal hidden shapes.

Which objects print circles or 'almost' circles?

Which objects print triangles or 'almost' triangles?

Are there more hidden circles or triangles?

To extend and deepen your child's understanding, you may like to use these questions and prompts:

- What shapes can you see?
- How do you know that this is a circle/triangle?
- How do you know that this is not a circle/ triangle?
- What is special about a circle/triangle?
- How are these shapes similar?
- What is different about these shapes?
- What makes this shape an 'almost' circle/ triangle?

As ever, please share your investigations on Seesaw.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

The Reception Team