



St Anne's CE Primary School,
Grantham

Class & Curriculum Overview

Foundation Stage

Autumn Term 2023

Teacher: Miss Birch

**Teaching Assistants: Mrs Ball,
Mrs Barwell & Mrs Kirk**

Dear Parents and Carers,



School & Home Links

We hope that your child has had an enjoyable introduction into school life here at St. Anne's and that they are looking forward to their first half term. We have lots of exciting things planned and all the staff are looking forward to getting to know the children over the next few weeks.

If you need to contact me at any time, please send a message on Class Dojo (the most straightforward option) or email the class email address: fs@st-annes.lincs.sch.uk This is checked regularly through the week. Alternatively, you can catch myself or any of the YR staff team for an informal chat at the start or end of the school day. If you are having trouble setting up your Class Dojo account, please let us know and we can help get you started.

This year we are recording your child's 'wow' moments in the portfolio section of their Class Dojo profile. This will be in the form of photos and short videos. As part of our partnership with parents and to share your child's learning journey together, it would be great if you could post the special moments from home, too. The children love sharing photos and videos from outside of school with their friends on our interactive 'big screen' in class!

On Monday, the children will choose and bring home their 'reading for pleasure' book from school, along with a special reading 'buddy'! The reading for pleasure books are for you to read to your child at home. There is no expectation for your child to be able to read any part of this book, it is purely for them to listen to and enjoy! Reading is an extremely important life-skill and key aspect of our curriculum, which underpins every other subject. Once your child receives their phonics reading book (in the next few weeks), regular practice is vital and alongside daily phonics lessons, all children share their reading books with us in school as often as possible.

We very much appreciate you listening to your child read regularly at home, too. Five minutes a day is a great starting point and is crucial in ensuring your child makes rapid progress with their reading. We hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming parent information session, where we will be introducing how Phonics and Literacy is taught in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. Please ask if you have any questions about reading or require support with this in the meantime.

For general school and class information, please check out the school's website www.st-annes.lincs.sch.uk where you will find our Foundation Stage class page and information about all aspects of school, from lunch menus to term dates and fun learning links. If you need any support or have any questions about anything, please let me know.



Special Events

There will be lots of exciting things happening in Foundation Stage and the rest of the school during the Autumn Term, but some of the important dates include:

- YR & KS1 Phonics & Reading Workshop for Parents – Wednesday 20th September from 2.30-3.10pm – school hall.
- 'Jeans for Genes' non-uniform day – Friday 22nd September
- Parents' Celebration Assembly – Friday 22nd September – school hall, 2.30pm. All welcome & don't forget your denim!
- Harvest Festival – Tuesday 3rd October at St Anne's Church, 1.30pm. All welcome.
- Influenza Vaccinations – Wednesday 11th October
- Individual & Sibling photographs – Wednesday 18th October
- Parents' Evening Appointments – Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th October from 3.30-6.30pm
- **Autumn Term 1 ends** – Friday 20th October at 3.10/15pm.
- **Autumn Term 2 begins** – Tuesday 31st October (staff training day Mon 30th October)
- Maths Week – Monday 13th November onwards
- Children in Need – Friday 17th November
- Christmas Fayre in school – Friday 1st December from 1.30pm
- Christmas Show – Wednesday 13th December
- FS & KS1 Pantomime trip to The Guildhall – Monday 18th December
- Christmas Lunch, Jumper & Film Day – Friday 15th December
- Christingle Service – Wednesday 20th December at St Anne's Church. 1.30pm – all welcome.
- **Autumn Term 2 ends** – Thursday 21st December at **1.15pm**



Communication & Language and Literacy

This term we will be learning how to listen by sharing stories and responding to them in different ways. We also hope to encourage your child to speak confidently with their peers as well as adults and to develop their speaking and listening skills during role-play situations. We will begin to use story language when sharing books and will teach the children how to navigate and care for books. The children will be taught to hear and write the first phonic sounds through a daily programme called Read Write Inc. Writing our own names with correct letter formation is a big priority and will be done through practical activities as well as learning how to hold a pencil correctly and comfortably.



Maths

The children will take part in daily maths sessions, which will develop their knowledge of the composition of numbers as well as how to use them for labels and counting. With an emphasis on 'real-life' scenarios, games and problem solving during regular practical play opportunities, the children will enjoy reading, writing and ordering numbers to 10. Counting, writing numbers and having fun with maths at home is a great way to support your child.



RE

Through following the Lincolnshire RE Syllabus, we will be introducing Christianity and why the word 'God' is important to Christians. The children will learn about celebrations such as Harvest and Christmas as well as special celebrations in other faiths, such as the Hindu festival of Diwali.



PSHE

We will help your child to settle in to school life and will introduce all of the children to school routines and behaviour expectations here at St. Anne's School. Through stories, drama, talk and games the children will consider new beginnings and making friends in our circle time sessions.



Themes

Learning in the Foundation Stage is focussed around children's interests, questions and the world around them, following a flexible series of interesting themes. The children will enjoy carefully structured and purposeful activities, whilst being given lots of opportunity for spontaneous play both inside and outside the classroom. The themes for the Autumn Term are detailed below:

Theme 1: *Marvellous Me*

We will begin our first theme by learning about our own bodies and how we move using drama and dance. We will talk about our feelings and the things that we like doing, and have the opportunity to complete a self-portrait. We will learn about each other, our families and discuss how we all have different experiences which make us who we are. Following on from this, we will compare the children's homes as well as the habitats of animals and then experiment with making homes using different media on a large and small scale. The outdoor area will become a building site to role-play different mathematical aspects of building homes including measuring and comparing heights, widths etc. As the term progresses and we start to see the changes in season, the children will go on an autumn walk to investigate the changes in the environment from the summer months. We will make our own soup from autumn produce and learn about why and how we celebrate the Harvest Festival.

Theme 2: *Let's Celebrate*

During November we will learn about why we celebrate Bonfire Night and Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. We will also look at our own celebrations such as our birthdays and we will plan and hold a birthday party for our class monkey, Chester. As the theme continues, we will have the opportunity to think about giving and receiving gifts, and look at different types of toys and investigate how they work. We will consider how different toys move and make our own simple versions of our favourites. We will also create our own toy shop to develop our skills in Maths. The final part of the theme will be a celebration of the festive season. We will learn about the reasons for celebrating Christmas, create our own 'Santa's Grotto' and become involved in the Christmas production.

Looking forward to a great term!

Miss Birch & the YR Team ☺