



# St Ambrose R.C. Primary School

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Loving minds ♥ hearts ♥ hands.

## Early Years Share in Our Learning Letter

A warm welcome to you all, those of you joining our Early Years for the first time and those of you have been part of our family for a while.

This letter helps you to understand what we will be learning in the first half term. However, the most important things we will be doing are settling in, making friends and getting to know each other.

### This term we will be learning lots of new and exciting things!

#### RE: Domestic Church - Family.

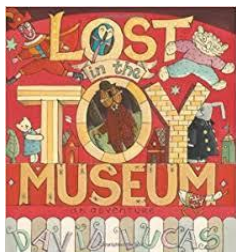


Our topic in RE this term is 'Family'. We will enjoy welcoming new faces to our family and settling in to our Early Years routine. The children will learn our rules and routines to make sure that they know how to use the environment. We will think about ways in which we can welcome each other and help each other to feel happy. We will look at what makes a good friend and how this will help us to welcome others.

We will also be focusing on our names. We will be talking about our names and why they are different. We will be asking you why you chose your child's name and the meaning of it. This will fit nicely with our writing focus for the start of the year, which will help the children recognise, write some or all of the letters in their name confidently and independently. We will then start to introduce the idea of our second name and how this is our family name.

We hope you will be able to join us for our Para-Liturgy on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 9am to celebrate the learning we do in the topic. Put the date in your diary now!

#### Literacy



In Early Years, the children gain valuable learning experiences through quality texts. This half term our theme is 'toys'. We will be reading 'Lost in the Toy Museum' by David Lucas and 'Kipper's Toy Box' by Mick Inkpen. Both of these texts are engaging and full of adventure for the children to delve into. We will be doing lots of talking about our favourite toys, developing our confidence and language. We will draw and paint our own pictures of toys and will look at toys from the past. Lost in the Toy Museum will give the children opportunities to explore different story themes and start to describe and talk about different characters in books. They will also have lots of writing and creative opportunities with creating their own toy characters. The children will also build their own role play area of a Toy Shop in the B1 (previous Reception) classroom!

## Phonics/ RWI

### Phonics is a huge part of the Early Years curriculum!



For our younger children in Early Years, Phase One phonics is an essential part of their speaking and listening development, which lays the foundations for their phonics work when they begin identifying sounds. This includes listening to different sounds; environmental, instrumental, and body percussion. This is achieved through listening walks, rhyming and alliteration games and singing a range of Nursery Rhymes.

For our older children in Early Years, Read Write Inc. is an essential part of the Early Years curriculum at St. Ambrose as it gives the children the skills to read and write. The children are grouped according to how many sounds they know and assessments are completed half termly so the children are always in the correct group.



The children need to know all single letter sounds and should be starting to blend them together orally e.g. s-a-d, sad. They should also be forming letters correctly and over learning at home will be hugely beneficial to the children.

## Reading at home

Every **Thursday**, your child will be sent home a library book. Please sit and share these exciting books with your child, encouraging them to hold the book themselves and turn the pages. Please check our class page on the school website [www.st-ambrose.manchester.sch.uk/earlyyears](http://www.st-ambrose.manchester.sch.uk/earlyyears) for more reading tips!

For our older children in Early Years, a reading book with a reading record will be sent home. We have found it hugely beneficial to send home simple words that the children can decode (break down) and blend e.g. m-a-t, mat. Your child should practise the words at home and someone at home should sign the reading record **every day**. We will then practice them in school every day. When your child knows the words in their envelope they will be given more to practice.



Included in the envelope are also some 'tricky red words' that every Reception child needs to learn. Phonics cannot be used to decode these words and they must be learnt from sight. Learning these words will help your child to access reading books sooner.

## Maths

This half term, we will be focussing on numbers up to 5. For our younger children we will be reciting numbers up to 5 through the use of nursery rhymes and 'show me 5 fingers' games. For our older children, they will be recognising numbers to 5. We will concentrate on counting a group of objects and matching the correct number. We will also practise counting an irregular group of objects.



We will then move onto Shape, space and measure and we will revisit and revise our knowledge of 2D shapes and begin to describe them.

## P.E.

This year the children will start P.E. lessons with Mr Warburton every Tuesday and Friday morning. The older children (Reception cohort) will need a full P.E. kit which consists of a white polo shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and black pumps. This must be kept in a labelled drawstring bag on their peg and should be kept in school for the half term. The children will do sessions in the hall as well as outside so it is vital the children



have a pair of pumps/trainers to access the full curriculum.

It is also vital that your child can attempt to dress and undress themselves so the children get the most out of the P.E. session.



Please check our website regularly, where current learning is displayed as well as lots of informative advice. If there is anything else you would find helpful please ask!

Early Years Curriculum Page: <https://www.st-ambrose.manchester.sch.uk/page/early-years/53676>

Early Years Class Page: <https://www.st-ambrose.manchester.sch.uk/class/early-years>