



**FIRST
STEPS**
@St.Mary's

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Ayr Drive, Jarrow NE32 4AW Tel. 0191 4898336: Fax. 0191 4898338

Acting Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. M. Graham

Acting Head of School: Mrs. A. Tumelty

soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk

Dear families,

This half term we will be covering the topic '[Ticket to ride](#)' and linking this to ways that we travel and our own experiences of holidays and travelling in different types of vehicles. We will look at pictures of different ways of travelling and learn some new vocabulary such as hot air balloon, canoe, tram, carriage and hovercraft to extend the children's experiences and language skills. We are in the process of developing a travel agent in our role play area complete with suitcases, travel brochures, tickets and materials to stimulate the children's communication and mark making skills. We will be reading key texts such as 'Mr. Grumpy's outing', 'The train ride' and 'Oi get of my train' and using these texts to discuss the characters' actions and record events in story maps with our group.

We will have a big focus on preparing for the coming Reception year with children who are ready for this transition and will be visiting the Reception classroom to play, practise mark making to represent people, write our names and think of ourselves as a writer in different situations eg. Writing lists, cards, letters, signs etc. We will also focus on the children's concept of themselves as a reader and have created a new display of signs and labels which they can recognize and read. We will practice our fine motor skills and participate in activities to strengthen our fingers and hand muscles such as painting, finger gym activities, threading and completing more complex puzzles. Please check out the website for photos and information about what we have been doing in Nursery to develop these skills.

As Summer unfolds we will also enjoy activities linked to seasonal changes in our garden and forest school environment. We will look after the plants in the allotment and tend to the newly planted vegetables, develop our outdoor water and role play areas, explore the mud kitchen and practise skills and work co-operatively to solve problems in our Forest school sessions.



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Library day will continue to take place on **Tuesday for Red group**, **Wednesday for Green group / Yellow group** and **Thursday for Blue group**. Please make sure that your child comes in to Nursery with their book bag on this day, ready to be changed.

Forest school will continue to take place for **Red** and **Blue** group on Wednesday and for **Green** group on Thursday. For this session the children will need to bring wellies and an appropriate coat for the weather on this day.

Dates for the diary:

Thursday 27th April: Nursery closed for strike action.

Tuesday 2nd May: Nursery closed for strike action.

Monday 1st / 8th May: Nursery closed for bank holiday.

Friday 5th May: Coronation celebration day. On this day the children can come dressed in their 'posh' or celebration clothes. Children who stay for lunch are welcome to bring a picnic blanket and will eat their lunch picnic style outdoors. If you wish to purchase a coronation packed lunch for your child this may be done through Parent pay at a cost of £2:20. Please see a member of staff if you need help with this.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. Walker and the Nursery team.



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