

**St. Joseph's Roman Catholic  
Primary School  
Ramsbottom**



**Reception  
Curriculum Statement  
2019 - 2020**



# Reception Curriculum Statement

## Religion

We are part of God's family and together we learn more about Jesus as we continue our faith journey. We focus on our ourselves, our families and our friends, baptism and belonging, preparing for and celebrating Jesus' birth, getting to know Jesus, our Lenten journey, Jesus' death and resurrection, giving and growing, serving Jesus and the good news, Mary our Mother in heaven, the rosary and bible and our beautiful world. We value learning more about other religions and celebrations, such as Diwali and Hanukah. In Reception, we learn about Jesus in lots of ways - we share and act out stories, we listen to music and sing, we talk together and listen to each other, we pray and reflect, we go to our Church, we celebrate together and share with others in assemblies. Time to stop and 'talk' with God and mindfulness are part of our day. We try to be as Jesus would want us to be and "Walk in the light of the Lord". We treat others as we wish to be treated and as our School mission statement says "Love one another". We appreciate being together and show each other "Faith, Hope and Love" in a loving and caring environment.



## Maths

As mathematicians, we focus on:

**Number** - developing a love of number and the number system, being able to count reliably, recognise and order numbers to 20 and beyond. We are able to say which number is one more/one less, two more/two less etc. than a given number and add and subtract using different strategies, such as combining groups/counting on and taking away/counting back. An appreciation of numbers all around us, with a fascination and an ability to estimate and look for patterns and relationships between numbers is key. We are continually applying what we know to solve problems, including problems requiring us to double, half or share. We record our number work in ways we can explain to others using the appropriate mathematical language.

**Shape, Space and Measures** - developing our understanding of 2D and 3D shapes, size, pattern, position, distance, length, time, weight, capacity and money through practical exploration and challenge. We develop our use of mathematical language and solve problems relating to the world around us. We recognise, create and describe patterns.

**Data Handling** - sorting in many areas of our work and learn how information is presented in many different ways such as tallying and pictograms (picture graphs).

Our mathematical knowledge and understanding is acquired and enhanced in many different ways, such as through directed learning, planned 'play', personal discovery, taking up challenges, focused activities and whole class teaching. Through all our maths, we encourage talking about what we have done, explaining to others and using the appropriate mathematical language. We solve problems and learn to record our work in different ways. We use Numicon, a superb and highly successful resource, to support teaching and learning in Reception and Numicon may also be used at home. When appropriate, we send maths challenges home to support learning.



## English

We develop as readers and writers throughout Reception, supported by our daily Read Write Inc. (phonics scheme) and our topic approach. Lots of what we do is based around our 'Book of the Week', covering a range of genres, cultures and interests.

**Reading:** As readers we focus on learning and embedding our Read Write Inc. sounds both as a whole class and within our Read Write Inc. groups. We learn to decode words (Green Words) and build up a bank of un-decodable words (Red Words) we can quickly recognise and read. We learn to blend sounds and use our phonic knowledge to help us read independently and confidently. We read, share, listen to and re-tell a range of stories, poems and action rhymes as a whole class, a small group, independently or with a buddy. We send reading books home (twice a week) to share and everyone has their own 'Word Fan' to practise key words at home.

**Writing:** As writers we learn how to link sounds to letters and how to use letters to communicate meaning in simple sentences and in meaningful contexts. These contexts may be in fiction areas such as stories and poems or in non-fiction contexts such as recounts, lists, captions, instructions and labels. We write in our daily Read Write Inc. sessions and in other opportunities such as recording our news, topic writing, writing of own choice, making our own story books and information books. We adopt pre-cursive letter formation, encouraging joined handwriting from the start.

## Learning Through Our Topics and Focus Areas

The majority of our learning happens through our topics and the opportunities presented in our classroom areas, such as within our role play area and outdoors. We look forward to being explorers, scientists, investigators, thinkers, artists, designers, constructors and technologists through our topics, which will lead us to finding answers to questions such as:

*Why do you love me so much? Why do leaves go crispy?*

*Where does snow go? Are eggs alive?*

The topics selected each year are based on the cohort's interests and provide opportunities to stimulate children's curiosity, understanding, knowledge and imagination. We respond immediately to children's suggestions and are led by the children in how each topic proceeds. Throughout their experiences children should, as part of small or large group, take turns to share ideas, conversations and materials, understanding that playing and working together can help them get on better, build good relationships and develop thinking. Children develop and extend their learning behaviours and attitudes, the Characteristics of Effective Learning (CoEL), through 'playing and exploring', 'actively learning' and 'creating and thinking critically'.

We ensure lots of what we do in Reception is 'fun', in accordance with our Culture Statement,

*"If we do nothing else today, we will show love, faith and hope".*

*"The most important things we must ensure today are that our children learn, are safe and are happy".*



Throughout the year, we are continually developing our resilience, empathy, self-awareness, positivity, excellence, communication, teamwork (RESEPECT) through Commando Joe. We have rhymes to support each theme and missions to accomplish.