

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**WELCOME TO YEAR 1**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and that your child is looking forward to adventures of Year 1. This letter is an overview of the work we will be covering in class over the next two terms and also includes important dates and times of some events that will take place.

**TOPIC**

Our creative curriculum topic theme is 'Around the World in 80 Dishes'. This topic incorporates Geography, Science, DT, Art, Computing, Music, Multi-Skills and Dance in PE. In Geography we will be exploring each of the continents of the world and focussing on the human and physical features found in different countries. As part of this topic we will also be designing and making a healthy pizza. In Science, we will be learning about animals including humans as well as the seasons of Autumn and Winter. As part of our Science topic we will be carrying out different investigations and collecting and recording data. A copy of the topic web is attached to this letter, which provides more detail about what we will be covering this term.

**RE**

This term we will be learning about the various parts of God's Creation, especially the Harvest and showing appreciation for it through psalms, as well as hearing the story of St. Francis. We will consider the types of celebrations we have at home, school and in the parish and share stories about the times Jesus celebrated with his family and friends. As part of this topic we will focus on the importance of the Mass as the main celebration for God's family. We will also be learning about different types of prayers and writing our own prayers of thanks and praise to God. During the season of Advent, we will be thinking about the symbolism of the Advent wreath and discussing our journey through Advent coming to its conclusion at Christmas.

**MATHS**

In Maths we will be covering a range of topics including number, measures, shape and space and problem solving activities.

Number Work

We will be learning to add several small digits together mentally by using number bonds to 10 and 20. In addition to this we will be learning to use partitioning to add two two-digit numbers together and adding by counting on using a number line. The children will also be learning to use partitioning to subtract two two-digit numbers and start to subtract by counting on using a number line.

Length

- Estimating, measuring and comparing the lengths of different objects.
- Using a ruler to accurately measure the length and width of different objects.
- Using a ruler to draw lines of different lengths.

Shape

- Identifying and naming 2D and 3D shapes.
- Describing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes including the number of sides, corners, lines of symmetry, number of faces or edges.

**LITERACY**

In Literacy, different topics will be covered which include narrative, non-fiction and poetry.

Narrative

- Using basic punctuation correctly in sentences.
- Identifying and using a range of adjectives to describe a characters and settings.
- Developing sentence structure and content to make sentences more interesting and exciting to read.
- Using similes in descriptions to add extra detail to descriptive writing.

- We will be reading different traditional tales and writing some new and completely different endings for well-known tales. We will also be identifying the features of information books and using this knowledge to create our own information posters and booklets.

#### Poetry

- Identifying rhyme and rhythm in a poem.
- Recognising words with the same sounds in a poem.
- Performance poetry, focussing on speaking clearly with expression and using actions.
- Using the structure of a poem to write new lines and verses.

#### Non-fiction

The focus for non-fiction writing this term will be on identifying the features of instructions and using this knowledge to create a set of instructions for making a healthy pizza.

### **PHONICS**

Children in Key Stage 1 are taught in groups for phonics. There is a phonics lesson every day, which may be taught by Miss Bucknell, Mrs Jeffries or myself. We follow the Letters and Sounds phonics programme for the teaching of phonics, which is a synthetic phonics programme advocated by the Government. As with all subjects, we closely monitor and assess pupil progress in phonics and will discuss any concerns with you. Please come in to speak to me if you have any questions or concerns regarding phonics or how you can support your child further with this at home.

### **READING**

At St Mary's we use the Oxford Reading Tree scheme, which includes a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. The books are banded according to level of difficulty in terms of decoding words and understanding of the text into different colour bands. There is progression through each colour of the book band system, with books becoming increasingly more difficult throughout each of the bands. Every week each child will be heard to read at school, which will be recorded in your child's reading diary. Reading books will be changed on a regular basis and we will continually monitor the progress of each child's reading.

### **HOMEWORK**

Maths, Literacy or Topic homework will be set each week, which is to be completed in the homework book provided. Phonics homework will focus on the specific sounds or spelling rules your child has been learning that week. Homework will be set on a Thursday and is to be handed in by Tuesday of the same week. The homework will consolidate the work covered in Maths or Literacy or be part of our creative curriculum topic and we encourage all children to complete the homework on time.

### **PE AND GAMES**

Children should wear shorts and t-shirt for indoor P.E. For outdoor games lessons they need trainers and a tracksuit for cold weather. It is **vital** that you label all school clothing with your child's name to avoid confusion when they change for P.E. Our outdoor P.E. lesson will be on a Tuesday afternoon and Friday afternoon. Please could your child have a pair of plimsolls to wear each day as their indoor shoes. These will be kept in school and can also be worn for indoor PE lessons. Children **should not** wear earrings during PE lessons, so please ensure your child does not wear earrings on a **Tuesday**.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September – Whole School Mass 11am  
 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October- Parents' Evenings  
 Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Key Stage One Mass 9:30 School  
 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Break up for half term holiday  
 Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October – INSET Day  
 Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Back to School  
 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Whole School Mass 9:30 School  
 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Whole School Mass 9:30 School

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

I would be very happy to see parents within Key Stage 1 for help on school trips and always welcome additional support within the classroom. You would be required to fill in a CRB form. Please contact the school for further information.

At St Mary's we are happy to see parents to discuss any problems or queries concerning your child. Please do not hesitate to contact the school to arrange an appointment, which is convenient to both parties.

Kind regards

Miss Southgate