

January 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Thank you for all of your gifts and well wishes over the Christmas period, I felt truly blessed. This term our topic is called 'Whatever Happened to the Woolly Mammoth?' and is a History based topic with a focus on Stone to Iron Age Britain. Please read the attached Topic Web for further details about this topic.

### MATHS

In Maths this term, your child will continue to build upon and apply their knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division including solving problems using these methods. We will also look at negative numbers and problem solve based on these. As well as this, they will learn about fractions and move onto applying this to percentages and decimals. We will also focus on measure looking at area, perimeter and time. At home we would appreciate you recapping analogue time at any given opportunity (I am aware that this is becoming increasingly difficult in the digital age that we live in!).

### TIMES TABLES

Children will continue to recap on multiplication facts in class and children will be given weekly times tables quizzes based on their current knowledge of times tables. Children will challenge themselves to achieve their next level. At home we would appreciate you working on recalling times tables facts whenever possible (they are expected to know all multiplication tables up to 12 by the end of Year 4).

### RM EASIMATHS

Your child brought their new login details for RM EasiMaths home before the Christmas break. This can be accessed at: <https://www.rmeasimaths.com> or you can download the free app for use on tablets. Please encourage your child to use this to consolidate Maths learning taught in class.

### ENGLISH

Your child will start the term focussing on instructions; we will explore features of this text type and the children will have a go at writing their own instructions for looking after Stone Age animals. We will also look at diaries, focussing on the layout of these and write our own diary entries based on the text 'Stig of the Dump'. Following this we will look at information texts linked to 'Stone Age Boy'. Towards the end of the term, the focus will be on narrative. The children will build up to writing their own Stone Age story and we will look at Traditional Tales with a twist.

### SPELLING

Following on from last term, we will continue to focus on 5 spelling words a week. The aim is for children to recognise and recall these words and apply their knowledge to spelling these words correctly in their writing. The Spelling List that we are working from is the same list that was sent out at the beginning of the academic year. However, if you would like a new copy, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

### RE

This term we will be looking at parts of the Mass, with a particular focus on the Liturgy of the Word and then moving on to look at Lent and how Christians prepare for Easter followed by learning about and understanding Christ's final days during Holy Week in the run up to Easter.

## HOMEWORK

Homework will be set on a Wednesday and is to be handed in by Monday of the following week. The homework will consist of a Maths and English task that will consolidate work covered in class.

Please encourage your child to read at home each night and where possible find opportunities to share books or discuss books that you are reading together.

Please also ensure your child practise their times tables.

## P.E - SWIMMING, DANCE, GAMES AND GYMNASTICS

Swimming will take place on Wednesday afternoons. Please ensure that your child has a swimming kit, including a swimming hat in school on Wednesdays.

PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please make sure your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school all week. St Mary's outdoor tracksuits are available for purchase from the School office.

## UNIFORM

Please ensure that all of your child's uniform is labelled clearly to aid in a speedy return of any lost items. Just a reminder that your child should have indoor shoes in School.

## GOLDEN TIME

Golden Time reinforces the positive reward systems we have in place at St Mary's. It has continued to be very successful this year, with the children thoroughly enjoying the range of activities available for them to choose from each week. If you have any ideas for Golden Time activities, which you would like to lead with a group in school, then please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss it further.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017- 9.30am Whole School Mass at School

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017- 3.15pm 4HD PTFA Cake Sale

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017- 9.30am Lower Key Stage 2 Mass at School

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017- 9am School Mass at Immaculate Conception Church

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017- 9.30am Ash Wednesday Mass at Immaculate Conception Church

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017- 9.30am Fr John's Silver Anniversary Mass in School

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>-Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017- Manor Adventure

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017- 9.10am 4HD Class Assembly

If you wish to know more about the curriculum, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

As always, if you have any queries, worries or concerns, please come and speak to your child's class teacher.

Kind regards

Miss Duncan