

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wish you a warm welcome back and hope that you had a wonderful summer. We have had a fantastic start to the new school year. It has been really lovely to see the children come into school so happy in the mornings and settle into their new routines. We are very much looking forward to our new topic "A Toy Story" and getting to know you all during this term. Below is an overview of the work we will be covering.

Our creative curriculum topic theme is 'A Toy Story'. This topic incorporates History, Science, Art, DT, Computing, Music and PE. As part of this topic we will be looking at how toys have changed since the start of the 20th century. In Science, we will be identifying, naming and describing materials and their properties. In addition to this, we will be investigating how materials can be changed and discovering which materials would make the best umbrella or waterproof coat. We will also be finding out which materials are used for different purposes to make uniforms or sports equipment. In Computing the children will be learning about how to stay safe on the internet. They will then be selecting information in a website and finding answers to questions using a website. In DT the children will be researching and looking at shadow puppets before designing and making their own. A copy of the topic web is also attached, 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 as well as sharing 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

We will continue to practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s both forwards and backwards. We will be learning to add several small digits together mentally by using number bonds to 10 and 20. We will be learning to add and subtract one and two-digit numbers in Year 1 and learning to add and subtract two two-digit numbers in Year 2. We will be identifying and naming 2D and 3D shapes as well as describing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes including the number of sides, corners, lines of symmetry, number of faces or edges. As an ongoing focus we will continually be reviewing and learning the days of the week and months of the year.

LITERACY

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

Narrative will be stories with a familiar setting based on a story book called *Traction Man* by Mini Grey. We will look at characters and setting, plan some of our own ideas and write our own adventure for Traction Man. We will be focussing on:

- using basic punctuation correctly in sentences
- identifying and using a range of adjectives to describe characters and settings
- developing sentence structure and content to make sentences more interesting and exciting to read
- using description and connections to add extra detail in writing

In Non-fiction writing the children will be working on producing their own information book which will be all about toys. They will learn about labels, lists and captions and use these to help present facts and research about toys in their booklets.

We will also be identifying the features of information books and using this knowledge to create our own information posters and booklets.

Poetry - we will be looking at different poems about toys and trying to listen for the rhyme and rhythm. We will be listening for words with the same sounds in a poem and then performing them for the class using clear voices, expression and actions. We will write our own poem lines and verses for the poems.

Phonics - the children will continue to be taught in groups for phonics. There is a phonics lesson every day and we follow the Letters and Sounds phonics programme for the teaching of phonics, which is a synthetic phonics programme advocated by the Government.

SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) activities will be taught as part of the Literacy lessons. We will be continuing to learn and practise the words from the spelling list, there will be a copy of this sent home. Please support your child by reading and spelling these words 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. Encourage your child to read daily at home, keeping a note of books read in their personal reading record. It is also very worthwhile to ask your child questions about what they have read, it could be about the story or the meaning of a word. This helps to develop more able and confident readers. Please ensure that your child's reading book and reading record are in school every day, even if they have not finished reading the book. Children always enjoy being read to even when they can read fluently for themselves, so do try to share a story with them whenever time allows. If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's reading, please write them in the reading diary.

HOMEWORK

Maths, Literacy or Topic homework will be set each week, which is to be completed in the homework book provided. Homework will be set on a Thursday and is to be handed in by Tuesday of the following 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. We do not expect the homework to take more than 30 minutes; if your child has not finished the homework within this time, please stop and write a note in the homework book.

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. 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. Our PE lesson will be on a Tuesday morning and we will be working on improving our ball skills individually, in pairs and in small groups building up to applying these skills in games.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 18th September – Year 1 Transition Meeting 6pm at school
- 17th October – KS1 Mass in school
- 17th October – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm
- 18th October – Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm and half term begins
- 19th October – INSET day
- 29th October – Back to school
- 1st November – Whole School Mass at Church

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We will be very happy to see parents within Key Stage One for help on school trips and always welcome additional support within the classroom listening to children read for example. You would be required to fill in a CRB form. Please contact the school for further information.

If you would like any further information about the curriculum or have any other questions or queries, we would be happy to talk to you about this and are available most days after school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gaffney and Mrs Bedding

