

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope that you had a lovely Christmas and managed to find some time to relax over the holidays. The children have settled back into school well after the break and are very much looking forward to our new topic "What a Wonderful World". Below is an overview of the work we will be covering this term and as always if you would like any further information about the curriculum or have any other questions or queries please come and speak to me.

Our creative curriculum topic theme is "What a Wonderful World". This topic incorporates Geography, Science, Art, DT, Computing and Music. As part of this topic, we will be looking at key physical and human Geographical features, as well as identifying continents and oceans. In Science, we are learning about a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. In Computing, the children will be creating simple animations and manipulating digital text. We will also continue to learn how to be safe on the internet. In DT the children will be looking at how to have a healthy and varied diet by creating, developing and evaluating their own recipes. We will be finding out where food comes from and how it is grown.

RE

This term we will focus on Jesus being a teacher and healer. The children will be learning about understanding the person of Jesus and his ministry as a teacher and healer. They will learn how Christians are called to follow the example of Jesus in their lives. We will then move on to learn about the importance of forgiveness, as a gift we can receive and as a way we can show love to others. We will discuss making bad and good choices including learning how to say sorry and think about our actions. Before the Easter holidays we will learn about Lent and understand it is a time of change and how to be more like Jesus by following his example.

MATHS

At the start of the term, Year 2 children will be learning how to make and interpret information in tally charts and pictograms. Meanwhile Year 1 children will continue to develop their understanding of place value and numbers to 50. We will then continue with our understanding of multiplication and introduce division. We will look at grouping, arrays, practising our times tables, halving and sharing by groups. We will move on to fractions including recognising and finding simple fractions of shapes and numbers.

LITERACY

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

Narrative will be looking at traditional stories from other cultures and working 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 reading instructional texts and writing their own. We will also identify the features and structure of instructional texts.

Poetry - we will be looking at different poems from countries around the world, such as Haikus. We will explore how they are structured and how we can use language and vocabulary to make our poems effective.

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. 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. Each child will be heard to read in school once a week as part of a Guided Reading Session. Encourage your child to read daily at home, keeping a note of books read in their personal reading record. It is also essential 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 Tuesday to ensure their books are changed. Children always enjoy being read to even when they can read fluently for themselves, so do use their library book as an opportunity for shared reading where you are creating a love of reading with them. If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's reading, please speak to me.

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 ensure your child has 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 starting with a gymnastics topic. We will be working on balancing, body shapes, balancing at different levels, jumping safely, sequences (partner work).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 16th January - Parents reading information and training evening.

Friday 25th January – Year 1 Class Assembly

Friday 1st February – Year 1/2 Class Assembly

Friday 8th February – Year 2 Class Assembly

Wednesday 6th March – Ash Wednesday (whole School Mass in Church)

Wednesday 13th March – Key Stage 1 Mass (In Church)

Thursday 14th March – Lenten Mass (8am in School)

Thursday 21st March – Lenten Mass (8am in School)

Thursday 28th March – Lenten Mass (8am in School)

Wednesday 3rd April – Whole School Mass (In School)

Thursday 4th April – Lenten Mass (8am in School)

Sunday 31st March – Reconciliation, Enrolment Mass (Year 2, 9am in Church)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are very welcome in Key Stage One for help on school trips or as additional support within the classroom, for example listening to children read. You would be required to fill in a DBS form. Please contact the school office for further information.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gaffney