

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you had a wonderful Easter break and got to enjoy the sunny weather. The children were certainly very enthusiastic to tell me all the wonderful things that they did over the holidays on Tuesday. We have a busy and exciting summer term ahead planned around our topic of "Castles and Knights". Please find below an outline of the work we will be covering.

Our creative curriculum topic theme is 'Castles and Knights'. This topic incorporates History and Geography, Science, Art, DT, Computing and Music. In History and Geography we will be looking at the different castles in the locality and significant people who lived in castles. We will name the features of castles and find out how people lived in them such as what they ate and the jobs they did. In science we will be learning about the basic needs of animals with a focus on horses and birds of prey as these were important during the history of castles. In addition to this, we will be looking at the importance of a healthy lifestyle for humans. In computing we will be studying how to use search engines effectively to gather information about castles, learning how to be safe online and continuing our work on coding. In art we will look at heraldry and what different colours and symbols meant. We will design our own coat of arms for a shield. We will also continue to experiment with a range of materials and techniques. In DT we will build on our own castles, exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable. In music we will be learning songs and music exploring traditional stories.

RE

We will begin the term learning about the season of Easter thinking carefully about Jesus' Resurrection and what this means for us. During the month of May we will be thinking about Mary and why she is special to us and how she can help us become closer to God. We will know the story of Pentecost and be able to describe how the disciples changed after receiving the Holy Spirit. In the unit Sharing Jesus' Life, we will identify some characteristics of a disciple and describe some ways in which Jesus changes or affects people's lives. In the final unit, Following Jesus Today, we will look at what it means to be followers of Jesus and belong to the Church.

MATHS

In Year 1 we will be learning how to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times.

In Year 2 we will be telling and writing the time to five minutes, including quarter past/to the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times.

We will then move on to learning about common 3D shapes and describing their properties. We will be exploring capacity and how to estimate and measure accurately. We will also learn about position and direction.

We will continue our work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and apply this knowledge to problem solving.

LITERACY

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

Narrative will be looking at traditional tales including reading and making alternative versions.

- using basic punctuation correctly in sentences
- sequencing a story and ensuring it has an effective beginning, middle and end
- 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 conjunctions to add extra detail in writing

In Non-fiction writing the children will be working on making information texts, identifying organisational features, and using appropriate language and tense.

Poetry – Looking at poetry about castles and focussing on using alliteration and rhyme to make our own 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 common exception words. 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 get 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.

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 afternoon and we will be starting to develop our athletic skills during the summer term. We will be working on running, jumping and throwing with activities based on the beginning skills of events like sprinting, long jump, shot put, javelin and long distance running.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15th June 2019 – Practice for Sacrament of Reconciliation at The Immaculate Conception at 9am

19th June 2019 – Sacrament of Reconciliation at The Immaculate Conception at 6.30pm

June 25th 2019 – Zoo Lab in school to visit EYFS and KS1

June 26th 2019 – KS1 Mass at The Immaculate Conception, Bicester at 9.30am

Date for KS1 trip to Warwick Castle to be confirmed (more info to follow)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We are always happy to see parents within Key Stage One whether that be for help on school trips or additional support within the classroom listening to children read for example. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the school office for further information. (You would be required to fill in a DBS form before volunteering.)

Kind regards,

Mrs Gaffney