

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Spring Term 2020
EYFS
Curriculum Letter



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!! I hope that you and the children had a fantastic Christmas and that the children had lots of fun. I am looking forward to the coming term which will be packed with lots of learning and exploring., some of which is detailed in this letter. I will of course continue to keep you informed about upcoming events as they occur.

Mrs Horton

Homework and Reading Expectations

Handwriting books will continue coming home with new sounds added weekly. Please use these books to practise recognising, saying and writing the sounds (as modelled in the book). You may also like to play games with the children using the sounds in the book - making words orally, reading and writing words / simple sentences. These books will be collected in on a Thursday morning and sent home on Thursday afternoon with the week's sounds / task.

Phonics - the children will begin 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.

READING - at St Mary's we use the Oxford Reading Tree scheme, which includes a range of fiction and non-fictions texts. The books are banded according to level of difficulty in terms of decoding words and understanding of the text into different colour 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. Home reading books will be changed on a Friday (please ensure to send their signed record book and readers in) and we will visit the school library on a Thursday. For each book one night can be used for decoding, as in just reading it through. Use the next night to reread the book and ask questions about what they have read. It is 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. 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. Please also practise the 'animal' words that are stuck into your child's reading record. We will check these regularly in school and mark off any the children read on sight. Please continue reading and writing all words even after they have been ticked off.

PE

Children should wear shorts and t-shirt for indoor P.E. 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 and a pair of trainers to wear for our outdoor 'Weekly Mile'. Children should not wear earrings during PE lessons. Our PE lesson will be on a Friday morning.

Key Dates

Friday 24th January - EYFS Class Assembly 9am

Tuesday 11th February - PTFA Cinema Night

Friday 14th February - School finishes at normal time for half term break

Monday 24th February - Return to school

Wednesday 26th February - Whole School Mass at Church (Ash Wednesday) 9.30am

Thursday 27th February - 8am Mass (every Thursday throughout Lent)

Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th March - Parents Evening 3.30 - 6pm

Wednesday 18th - Friday 20th March - PTFA Mothers' Day Sales

Wednesday 25th March - EYFS Mass 9.30am at Church

Wednesday 1st April - Whole School Mass at School 9.30am

Friday 3rd April - School finishes at normal time for the Easter holidays