

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a joy to start the New Year with your children and learning all about them. I look forward to spending more time getting to know them. Our new topic this term is called 'Our house, in the middle of our street'!

As well as Literacy, this topic incorporates History, Science, Art, DT, Music and PE. We will be exploring how homes have changed through the ages. We will also be looking at the Great Fire of London and thinking about how the houses during this time affected the spread of the fire. In literacy, through stories from different traditions, we will see how and why homes are different in other countries. In science we will be exploring the materials used in our homes and the reasons for this. In Art and Design Technology, we will use our creative skills to make our very own houses and study how homes have been represented by different artists. The children will also share all their learning with you towards the end of the term in a showcase!

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. They will receive two new books every Tuesday (please ensure to send their signed record book and readers in) and a library book during the week also. 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.

HOMWORK

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 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 Wednesday afternoon.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 7th February 9.00 am - Class Assembly at school

Week of March 2nd - Book Week

17th - 21st February - Half term

10th March 9.30am - KS1 Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church

Wednesday 11th March 3.30 - 6pm - Parent Teacher Meeting

Thursday 12th March 3.30 - 6pm - Parent Teacher Meeting

1st April 9.30am - Whole School Mass at school

6th - 17th April - Easter Break

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,

Miss O'Brien