

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Autumn Term 2020
Year 1
Curriculum Letter



Dear Parents,

We are very excited to be back at school and to be back with the whole school community! Our new topic is called 'Home and Away' and the children have enjoyed our first week of learning.

This topic incorporates Geography, Science, Art, DT, Music and PE as well as Literacy. We will be exploring our local area and comparing it to another area in the UK as well as comparing our area to China. We will be looking at Mairi Hedderwick's Katie Morag books which we will use to explore characters and story writing as well as learning about the Isle of Coll, where Katie Morag is set, in Geography. We will also be looking at how the seasons change in Science and then look at the human body. In Art and Design Technology we will use our creative skills design out very own playground to enhance our local area and study the artists Picasso and Matisse.

We are all very excited for the term ahead!

Miss O'Brien

Homework Expectations

Maths, Literacy or Topic homework will be set each week, which is to be completed using Google Classroom. Homework will be set on a Friday online and is to be submitted 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 private message on Google Classroom. We will send a homework book home which is to be kept at home. Your child can complete their homework in this book then take a photo and submit it via the assignment on Google Classroom.

PE

Children should bring outdoor PE kit including tracksuits and trainers. We will be doing PE outside the entire term, even if it is cold outside. 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. Children should not wear earrings during PE lessons. If your child has long hair this needs to be tied up. Our PE lesson will be on a **Monday afternoon**. We will send your child's kit home on Monday and it can be sent in again after washing ready for the next PE lesson.

Reading

At St Mary's we have a new reading scheme call Rising Stars Reading Planet, 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. They will receive a new book every Thursday and should return their book on the following Monday. For your reading book the first night you can use the before reading activities on the inside cover of the book and read for decoding. Use the next night to reread the book and ask questions on the back page about what they have read. The third night can be used to increase fluency and complete after reading tasks. 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 your home or local library to have books for shared reading where you are creating a love of reading with them.