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**MCj04360410000[1] St Mary’s Catholic Primary School**

**Spring Newsletter**

**Wisdom Class**

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the Spring term – I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year! Thank you for your cards, gifts and kind words. It has been lovely getting to know you. Thank you for all the hard work you have put in, reading and encouraging your children in their learning. It is wonderful to have such supportive parents and such delightful children.

**Homework**

Homework will continue to be given out on Thursday and will need to be returned to school for marking on Monday. It would be helpful if you could help your child to practise reading and writing the words at the beginning of their homework book and also help them to practise counting in twos, fives and tens.

**P.E.**

P.E. will be on Tuesdays. **Please ensure that your child has the correct kit and that everything is labelled with your child’s name.** Please can you also check that their plimsolls still fit. Please can you make sure that your child’s earrings are removed on these days.

**R.E.**

This term’s learning centres around Sacramental People. The children will study the traditions and symbolism of the Sacraments. Our work in the Spring Term also takes us into our Lenten preparations. Lent is a special time when we prepare to celebrate the example of self-giving shown to us by Jesus’ Death and Resurrection at the end of Holy Week.

**Numeracy**

In Numeracy we will be focusing on the number system, addition and subtraction, fractions, measurements (money and mass) shapes and their properties, multiplication and division. Please ask children to help read prices when you go shopping, work out totals and find change. Children find fractions very tricky so you can help them by talking about halves and quarters when you cut up food, or share items into two or four groups.

**Literacy**

In Literacy we will be looking at stories about toys from familiar and different settings, information and explanation texts, comprehension and story writing. After the half term we will be looking at fairy tales.

**Reading**

Please ensure that your child brings their reading book into class each day and please read regularly with your child at home. Remember to ask your child questions about the text they read as this will help them to improve their comprehension skills. Please look at the strands in the front of their reading records which will help to develop their reading and literacy skills.

**Science**

This term we will be learning about ‘Materials’ and the physical properties of a variety of everyday materials. We will also be observing the change in the seasons.

**Humanities**

In History we will be learning about Florence Nightingale and how she changed hospitals as well as the invention of radio and its impact on people’s lives. In Geography we will be learning about the countries within the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas.

**ICT**

In ICT we will be learning about how to stay safe online and the importance of passwords. We are also finding out how computers follow sets of instructions called algorithms. The children will start to sequence basic codes using Espresso coding in order to initiate movement on screen and to create their own simple games.

**Art / Design Technology**

In Art we will be looking at the artist Rousseau and his paintings of jungle scenes. The children will paint and use collage to create their own jungle pictures.

In Design Technology we will be making and decorating gingerbread houses like the one in the story Hansel and Gretel, as well as using junk to create some famous London landmarks and bridges.

**Music**

In Music we will be learning about different musical instruments and create a class composition.

**De Bono’s Six Thinking Hats**

We will be continuing to learn about De Bono’s Six Thinking Hats. We are already using the Red Hat (feelings, intuition), Yellow Hat (positive thinking) and White Hat (information), and will be adding the Green and Black Hats this term (creativity and problem solving). The children enjoy “wearing” the hats and learning to use these methods to develop their thinking.

**Habits of Mind**

The Habits of Mind are a collection of 16 thinking dispositions designed to help children develop their critical and creative thinking skills. Every week children are taught to use a different ‘habit of mind’ to help with their thinking and apply this to their work.

If you have any questions please feel free to come and see me after school.

Kind regards.

Ms Keevil