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

**Spring Newsletter**

**Green 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. This term could get bitterly cold so please send in joggers for outdoor P.E. lessons.

**R.E.**

This term we are looking at People of Prayer. 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 addition and subtraction, fractions, measurements (money and mass), shapes and their properties, and multiplication and division including place value. Please ask children to help read prices when you go shopping, work out totals and find change.

**Literacy**

In Literacy we will be looking at traditional stories and stories from a range of different cultures, 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 ‘Toys from the Past’ and comparing them with homes today. In Geography we will be learning about the countries within the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas.

**ICT**

In ICT we will be using Espresso Coding, a teaching program which shows them how to put together and test simple commands which result in moving graphics on the screen.

**Art / Design Technology**

In Art we will be looking at different paintings and sketches of artists who have illustrated traditional stories. We will be replicating their designs using acrylics and pastels.

In Design Technology we will be making porridge which is linked to our Literacy topic, as well as creating and designing our own fruit or vegetable salad.

**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.

**Spelling**

The children will be receiving a list of spellings every week which they will practice writing each morning when they first arrive in the classroom. Each week’s spelling list is on the website. The children can practise these at home and would benefit best from writing their own sentences featuring one or more spellings. We will test them each Friday.

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

Ms Keevil

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