**Autumn 2023: Year 2 Parents’ Newsletter**

Welcome to Year 2. I hope you and your family have had an enjoyable summer break and are refreshed and ready to begin the new school year. This newsletter gives you some details on the areas of the curriculum to be covered during the autumn term. It would be helpful if you could also arrange for your child to bring in a box of tissues so that they are always available for the children to use in class.

**Rules**

We have discussed the rules that we feel will help the children to learn and work in a happy and positive environment. Additionally, the rules reflect the ethos and mission statement of St. Mary’s school. These will be displayed in our classroom. The school’s rewards and sanctions for good and bad behaviour have also been discussed with the children.

**Homework**

Homework will be given out on Thursdays and will need to be returned to school for marking on Monday. The purpose of the homework is to reinforce learning that has taken place in class. It is also an opportunity for you to see what your child is learning. Alongside homework it would be helpful for you to help your child practise reading and writing the given spellings given each week, reading and spelling common exception words and helping them practise the two, five- and ten-times tables (please note they must know these in sequence /rote. Mixed order and related division facts). Spellings and tables will be assessed weekly. Please note that additional work may be given to your child during the week to aid their learning.

**Reading**

At present your child will still be bringing home a school reading book. Please ensure that your child reads every night in order to develop fluency. Reading records are provided for date, book and comments to be added by an adult. Please ensure that the reading records are signed each time your child is listened to read. Also, if you could spend a little time talking about the text and asking questions to encourage your child to really think about what they have read. This will greatly help their comprehension skills. Evidence shows that good readers are also good spellers and good writers. Reading records will be checked by the class teachers every Monday and we will expect to see 4 adult signatures showing that you have heard your child read.

Children will also read individually or in Guided Reading groups at least once a week. This will also be recorded in your child’s Reading Record.

**P.E.**

PE will take place on Mondays and Thursdays with a specialist PE coach this term. We ask the children to come to school on our designated PE day, dressed in their full, correct PE kit. This means your child will need to have the school tracksuit bottom and sweatshirt with our school logo, under which they are expected to wear their white St Mary’s PE top and shorts. **Children should wear their normal black school shoes and bring their plimsolls in their small PE bags to change into.** Please ensure that your children have the correct PE kit and that each item of clothing is clearly labelled with your child’s name. For health and safety reasons children are not permitted to borrow other children's PE kits. All earrings should be removed on PE days prior to coming to school. If for some reason your child has to keep their studs in, these should be very carefully taped over at home.

**Thinking Skills**

St. Mary’scontinue to use De Bono’s Thinking Hats and a variety of Thinking Maps to develop the children’s thinking skills. Over the coming weeks, ask your child which Hats they have been using in school.

I look forward to working in partnership with you and your child this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Yours Sincerely,

Miss C Sheehan and Miss A Nurdagi

**R.E.**

**Beginning with the Church**

**Children will look at:**

What is the Church?

How does the Church welcome and sustain its members?

How do other religious communities initiate their members?

Children will be able to give reasons for religious signs, symbols, words and phrases related to the Sacraments of Initiation and use religious terms to show an understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation

**Advent and Christmas:**

**In this unit, the children will:**

Learn about Lectio Divina.

Explain some of the signs and symbols used in the Church during Advent.

Explaining the significance of Jesus’ birth for us Christians.

Look at how Christmas is celebrated around the world,

**Judaism:**

The children will spend a week exploring the Jewish faith. They will be understanding the roots of the religion and any similarities it has with Christianity. They will be looking at how the Torah is essential in the lives of the Jewish people and which days are regarded as special or holy

**Literacy**

There is a daily Literacy lesson. We will be focusing on Fantasy, Poetry and Non-Fiction this autumn term. We will focus on two books for or fantasy topic; ‘Aliens Love Underpants’ and ‘Beegu’. Children will hear these stories and complete a range of activities based on them. For our non-fiction topic children will learn all about the life and accomplishments of Christopher Columbus. In poetry we will focus on space poems. Alongside this the children will complete a Big Write task, spelling tasks and handwriting tasks weekly.

**Numeracy**

There is a daily Numeracy lesson. We will be following the National Curriculum objectives on *counting to* *100, place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication, division, time, money, real life word problems, and shape, space and measure.*

There will also be regular times tables and mental maths practise.

**Science**

Our topic this term is *Materials.* Children will learn about different materials and learn to discuss and describe their properties and how they are used in the environment around them. We will continue to use ‘Science Ninja’ in science where the children work towards achieving stickers for different methods of enquiry.

**Topic**

In History we will be learning about *Neil Armstrong and the moon landings* which includes the 1960’s space race*.* In Geography we will focus on *The World* including *Continents and Oceans.*

**ICT**

In ICT the children will be introduced to using word processing and typing skills. In addition, they will be learning about how to use the internet safely. In the second part of the term the children will be making music using an app and using I movies to make a short movie.

**Art / Design Technology**

In Art we will be learning different art skills*.* The children will be sketching, painting, using pastels and drawing from observation. Our topic this half term is ‘In the Dark of Night’ where the children will learn about contrasting colours such as dark and light colours. In Design Technology we will learn how to use levers to make a moving monster.

**PSHE- Following TenTen Life to the Full**

**KS1 Module One: Created and Loved by God** explores the individual. Rooted in the teaching that we are created by God out of love and for love, it helps children to develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships.