



Spring Newsletter 2019

Year 3 St Bernadette

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! Many thanks for the lovely Christmas gifts and I hope that you and the children have had a good break over the holidays.

During the forthcoming term the focus in particular is on the quality and presentation of the children's work in all subjects.

As you are aware, we aim to develop thinking skills at St Mary's to assist the children in their current and future learning. Regular reference is made during lessons to Edward De Bono's Thinking Hats, Habits of Mind and Thinking Maps. Ask your child to tell you about which one/s they have used in class today!

This newsletter gives details on the areas of the curriculum to be covered during the spring term. PE sessions will be on Tuesdays. As usual, hair needs to be tied back and no earrings should be worn on P.E. days. Please ensure that your child has a complete P.E. kit in school, with correct size plim-solls and all items clearly labelled with their name. Please continue to send in boxes of tissues so they are always available for the children to use in class. Many thanks to those of you who responded to this request in the autumn!

READING

Please try to read with your child for around 20 minutes each night, in order to develop fluency. Reading Records are provided so that the date, book and comments can be added by you or your child. Please encourage your child to fill in their Records regularly. When we have Guided Reading sessions in school, the children will be given a question which has an Assertive Mentoring focus for them to answer. Please encourage your child to complete this task as it is a way of showing what they have understood about the text. Also, whenever you read with your child it will be of great benefit if you spend a little time discussing what they have read by encouraging them to think about the content of the text and asking them some questions. This is appropriate with both fiction and non-fiction texts and will greatly help to improve reading comprehension skills. We have encouraged the children to use a dictionary to help learn the meaning and spelling of unknown words as they undertake their literacy homework. Please help support them in this.

HOMEWORK

Spellings, Handwriting, Mental Maths, Literacy and Numeracy homework will continue be given every Wednesday, to be handed in on Monday. Please encourage your child to practise their times tables regularly as this knowledge is a great support to them in their Numeracy work.

Rehearsals for the Year 3 production, 'What's the Crime Mr Wolf?,' will begin this term. Please support your child helping them to learn both the song words and any speaking parts which they may have. You will be receiving a separate letter to inform you of what costume your child will need for their part and a separate letter will be sent at a later date about performance details.

If at any time you have any queries about your child or their work then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you and your child over the coming term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Falzone

NUMERACY (following the New Curriculum)

Topics to be covered this term:

Counting, partitioning and calculating

Securing number facts and understanding shape

Handling data and measures

Calculating, measuring and understanding shape

Securing number facts, relationships and calculating.

In addition: daily multiplication tables practice and weekly mental maths test.

LITERACY (following the New Curriculum)

Fiction

Myths and Legends

Adventure Stories

Non-fiction

Information text; report writing (linked with History).

Poetry

In addition: weekly spellings and test, guided reading, creative writing, grammar work and handwriting practice three times each week.

SCIENCE

Animals Including Humans– Identifying how animals

survive, looking at the skeleton structure in animals and continuing to focus on scientific enquiry skills.

Rocks– Identifying different types of rocks and looking at fossils and their formation.

Geography

Weather– We will be identifying on an atlas and world maps different climate zones.

They will be researching how hurricanes and tornadoes are formed and the human impact that they have.

P.E.

Year 3 pupils will receive PE lessons by trained PE experts from a company called 'Non-Stop Action'.

They will begin the term learning the skills of each sport learnt and how to warm up their muscles through a range of games and exercises.

Every lesson will begin with the objectives and aims shared and discussed with the pupils.

Throughout and at the end of the lesson, the children will learn to evaluate their performance and that of others and suggest ways that they can improve.

FRENCH

The children will be extending their vocabulary this term, enabling them to talk particularly about: members of the family, parts of the body; the weather; vocabulary connected with school work and the curriculum.

R.E. (see also separate RE Newsletter)

A People of Prayer:

In this topic we will be understanding what happened at the Epiphany and how this is still relevant to us today. We will be learning what the Beatitudes are and why we still use them in our lives. Children will then be linking their understanding of the Beatitudes to people who have dedicated their lives to God, like Mother Teresa.

From Lent to Easter:

We will be understanding why Lent is an important time of the Liturgical Year for Christians and what we can do during this time of preparation. The children will be describing the events which took place in the Easter story and how this has an impact on our lives today.

ICT

We will continue to use the Espresso scheme to complete our work on Coding and analysis. Additionally, we work on using PowerPoint presentations to create presentations linked to our Geography topic on Weather.

ART

We will be linking our work to our Geography topic, Weather. Children will be looking at different artist interpretations of the weather and creating their own version. They will be using clay to create weather symbols and will work with fabric paints to create a kite decorated with weather symbols.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The children will investigate different biscuits and will create their own weather shaped biscuit linked to our Geography topic.

MUSIC

Music this term will be taken up with learning the music and rehearsing for the "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" production. The children will also be having weekly recorder lessons this term as part of the music curriculum.

PSHE & CITIZINSHIP

(following the SEAL programme of study)

Good to be me:

This theme is focusing on feelings. It explores feelings in the context of the child as an individual, developing self-awareness and helping the child to realise that it really is "Good to be me." The theme is about understanding our feelings as well as considering our strengths and weaknesses as learners. It aims to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in three key social and emotional aspects of learning: self-awareness, managing feelings and empathy.

Going For Goals

This topic will focus on the children striving for their goals and teaching them ways to be resilient and determined.