**Autumn 2025-2026 Year 5 Parent Newsletter**

Welcome to a new academic year in Year 5. We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer break and are ready to settle back into school. Our year group newsletter gives some details of the curriculum areas that we will be covering during the autumn term.

The year 5 class rules reflect the ethos and mission statement of St. Mary’s school. There is an emphasis placed on respect for peers as well as adults. Children are encouraged to work co-operatively with one another and with adults to ensure that they achieve their full potential. As classes we have put together a list of rules, which have been displayed in the classroom. The school’s rewards and sanctions for good and bad behaviour have also been discussed with the children.

We will continue using the Thinking Skills: Thinking Hats and Habits of Mind which are incorporated in all lessons. These give children the opportunity to think about different areas of the curriculum focusing on particular channels of thinking.

During this term, we will be focusing on Explorers. In Literacy, we will be focusing on our writing skills. Children will be learning how to self-edit and reflect on the work they produce. We will be looking closely at punctuation and grammar, which should be reflected in the children’s class work. We will focus on a range of genres including: portal stories, adventure stories and a non-fiction unit on famous artists. We will be exploring these different text types and the children will be given the opportunity to write in these styles. Therefore, any extra work on these types of texts at home would be beneficial.

In Numeracy, we will be using the objectives set out in the 2014 Curriculum. We will be focusing on number and place value, addition & subtraction, multiplication & division and fractions this term. We ask that you encourage your children to learn and know their multiplication tables as well as the inverse.

The topic through which Religious Education will be taught this half term is: Creation and Covenant which focuses on looking after the world and creation and the covenants God made throughout history. The children will explore the church’s teachings, understand Christian beliefs and make links between each sacrament and belief and will recognise how the order in which believer receive these sacraments have changed over time. The children will attend regular masses which you are most welcome to attend.

The science topic we will be exploring is Properties and Changes of Materials. Children will take part in a range of investigations to support their understanding of the subject. There may be extra Science homework given to help with these areas.

PE lessons are scheduled for St. Anthony on a Tuesday and Friday and PE lessons for St. Joseph are on Monday and Thursday with Non-Stop Action. This term will focus on Netball and Dance in Autumn 1 and Football and Gymnastics in Autumn 2. Hair should be tied back and earrings should not be worn on these days. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing a complete and correct P.E. kit. PE shoes should be brought into school and children will be given time to change into these prior to the lesson.

In Music, the children will be focusing on playing and performing in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression. They will work on improvisation and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music. Children will listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.

Homework will be given out on a Wednesday and should be completed and returned to school the following Monday. Some elements of homework will be shared via Purple Mash. Children should use their logins and ensure that work is submitted before school begins on Monday morning. Children will also receive a comprehension and numeracy and SPAG homework on Wednesday’s which must be handed in on Monday for marking. If you feel that there is a problem, please write a comment on the front of the homework booklet.

Please ensure that your child continues to read at least 5 times a week for at least 20 minutes and that an adult has heard them. Their reading record should be signed each night and returned to school on Friday to be checked. Additionally, please try to read to your child as this will help to foster a love of reading. When commenting, we would be grateful if you could refer to the Assessment Focus Targets that are found in the front of your child’s reading record and ensure they are returned to school each day.

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.

We hope that your child has an enjoyable term and we look forward to meeting you. Meanwhile, should you have any concerns regarding your child, please feel free to speak to us any time after school.

Mr Dixon and Miss Chafla