



Autumn 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.

Tissues



As you know, the school cannot provide tissues for each classroom. Therefore, It would be helpful for each 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 acceptable and unacceptable 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 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 later times tables) will be assessed weekly.

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 each morning for an adult's signature. Children will also read individually or in Guided Reading groups during the week. This will also be recorded in your child's Reading Record.

P.E.

PE will take place every Monday and Thursday 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's continue 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.

Thank you

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 Sheehan



Autumn Curriculum



R.E.

Creation and Covenant:

In this branch, pupils will learn about the story of Noah, mainly focusing on God's promise, or covenant, with Noah and with all creatures that 'nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood' (Gen 9:15), a promise symbolised by the rainbow. God's promise to Noah is not one way; it depends on Noah (and his family) turning back to God and taking responsibility for the gift of Creation they have received. Noah must be a good keeper, or steward, of the Earth and all living things. The Catholic Church recognises the story of Noah's ark prefigures the 'salvation by baptism, for by it a few... were saved by water' (CCC 1219). The Sacrament of Baptism forms the next part of Creation and covenant as the sacrament is a covenant with God (YC 194) and, as in the story of Noah, a person is reborn from the waters.

Prophecy and Promise:

The liturgical season of Advent is explored as the four weeks of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Children will explore some of the special stories of Advent and learn about the importance of Mary and some of the words of her Magnificat. Pupils are invited to understand some of the symbols used during the Advent season, namely the Advent wreath, and to explore how other cultures prepare for Christmas, such as Las Posadas, the nine-day prayer and pageant that originated in Mexico. Additionally, pupils should be encouraged to make links with the message they hear in Scripture and actions, considering how Christians today can bring joy to the world.

Literacy

Our texts for this term include Beegu, Look Up! and Mog's Christmas. We will also look at a non-fiction unit (Instructions). Children will complete range of SPAG activities linked to each unit, building up to an extended Big Writing task. Alongside this the children will complete daily Monster phonics sessions, spelling and handwriting tasks weekly.

Numeracy

There is a daily Numeracy lesson. We will be following the National Curriculum objectives through the White Rose scheme of work. This term we will focus on: place value, addition and subtraction and shape.

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

Science

Our topics this term are Animals, including humans: Life cycles and health and Living things: Habitats.

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 be learning about Continents and Oceans.

Art / Design Technology

In Art we will be exploring line and shape; working and experimenting with different materials through observational and collaborative pieces inspired by artists.

Our Design Technology project will link to our science learning. We will design and create a healthy wrap.

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.

ICT

In ICT the children will be introduced to basic skills, word processing and typing skills. In addition, they will be learning about how to use the internet safely.

PE- Taught by specialist coach from Non-Stop Action

Monday- Outdoor session

Thursday- Indoor session