

Information for parents/carers-please keep safe for future reference.



Term: Spring 1
2018/19
Year group: 2

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Christmas break. We wish you and your family a happy and blessed New Year. We are hoping you had a very peaceful and enjoyable time with your families and friends and that your children are rested, recharged and ready for learning!

Good News for Families

Along with encouraging your child in their learning journey, it is also a very good time for them to reflect and focus on their *spiritual journey*. As mentioned in the **Wednesday Word for Advent and Christmas** (in reference to the Gospel of Sunday 6th January 2019-Matthew 2:1-12 'The Feast of the Epiphany'):

“What guided the wise men to Jesus? On Sunday 6th January 2019, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany. We remember how the wise men from the East were guided to Jesus. **Ask your child what the word 'guidance' means to them. Who guides them through life to make sensible and wise choices? Who or what guides you on your journey through life?** The church exists to help us and provides us with the timeless guidance of the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.' These are manuals for life which can guide us on our journey.

As we journey through life to God, we need good guidance to help us along the way. **Ask your child if they know some of the ways in which Jesus guides us today. Perhaps it is through: listening to good people; learning Church teaching; prayer, worship and the sacraments...**If you haven't already started, why not resolve to head into 2019 on a spiritual journey as a family-to be guided by God?"

The wise men in the Gospel were guided by a star but since the birth of Jesus we no longer need stars to guide us. Just as the wise men discovered-Jesus is the way: the way to happiness, to truth and to eternal life...

PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

We will continue to celebrate the positive attributes of your children this year through awarding 'pupil of the day'. This award is given out at random on a daily basis to our pupils. We hope you continue to enjoy hearing the compliments your child receives!! We continue to participate in the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) programme, supported by Barnardos. The programme consists of whole class lessons and the 'pupil of the day' approach is one way in which we are able to develop the ability to give and receive compliments. It is always a positive way to end the day! See

<http://www.pathseducation.co.uk/> for more details.

FAMILY LEARNING

We would very much like to welcome you to our family learning opportunities this term. The main focus of the sessions will be writing, how we develop writing in the particular year groups and how we can work together to support writing both at home and school. We hope you can join us!

Our family learning session will be on **Friday 8th February at 9am**. The purpose of the session is writing. We hope you can join us!

WORKING TOGETHER

Please support your child in achieving their goals by encouraging them to develop their learning behaviours. The 8 learning behaviours we focus on at school are:

- Being curious (curiosity)
- Having a go (perseverance)
- Co-operating
- Enjoying learning
- Improving
- Using your imagination (creativity)
- Concentrating
- Not giving up (resilience)

Also, please ensure that your child comes to school well rested and ready for learning by checking that they have the necessary equipment they need on a daily basis (e.g reading book and diary, homework resources, water bottle, PE kit etc).

-Here is a brief outline of what your child will be learning about this half term:

Subject	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home
English	Nonfiction Exploring features of nonfiction books Creating our own animal fact files Zeraffa Giraffa Non-chronological reports Author Study: Anthony Browne	Exploring different nonfiction books and identifying their features. Differences and similarities between fiction and nonfiction books. Use the internet and nonfiction books to create an information poster or fact file about something that interests you. Read every evening at home with your child. Visit the library, find non-fiction books about animals.
Maths	- Money - Multiplication and division The children will be deepening their understanding of	Information about the weekly maths homework that will be sent home. Real life problem questions:

	<p>addition and subtraction. They will then be applying this knowledge to support <u>addition</u> and <u>subtraction</u> calculations and word problems. Over the term the children will also develop their understanding of <u>multiplication</u> and <u>division</u> and will recognise and make different amounts of <u>money</u>.</p>	<p>-How much change should I get from £5? - There are 6 apples in one bag, how many apples are there in 3 bags?</p>
RE	<p>Local Church/Community: Books We will be exploring stories in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Children will have an opportunity to make links between the stories as well as relate them to their own life experiences. We will also look at the story of Jesus being baptised.</p>	<p>Visit your local church. Read the bible at home. Learn about some stories from the Old Testament. Practice making the Sign of the Cross and ensure your child knows the Our Father and Hail Mary prayer.</p>
Science	<p>Living things and their habitats We will be continuing our topic on living things and their habitats but looking more specifically at African animals and creating our own food chains for them. Growth and survival Children will understand what animals, including humans, need in order to grow, thrive and survive. They will explore the life cycles of various animals and investigate how young develop into adults, looking specifically at what humans need to live a healthy life.</p>	<p>Discuss animals and their habitats at home; talk about how animals and humans grow and what they need in order to stay alive. Can you name some animals that live in Africa and discuss their habitat? Visit the Natural History and the Science Museum (they're free!).</p>
Topic	<p>Our topic this half term is Africa. We will be completing an in class project about Africa using nonfiction books and iPads. This project will include information animals in Africa, traditional food, traditional dance and clothing and much more.</p>	<p>Can you locate Africa on a map of the world? Can you name some countries in Africa and talk about their climate? What oceans surround Africa?</p>
Computing	<p>Puppet Pals 2- Using Puppet Pals 2 children creating a puppet travel show video about contrasting countries.</p>	<p>You can download Puppet Pals 2 application on your phone, iPad or tablet at home. Children can then explore the different</p>

	This is an iPad app used for storytelling.	features. They can write their own script and record it to make their own video.
PE	This term children will develop and explore the fundamentals of movement into space and how to achieve this by, evading, dodging, weaving, tricking and Side stepping on and off the ball. They will also continue to explore and develop the fundamentals of the game with ball control, striking, dribbling. Evasive games with problem solving will be introduced. Games will be layered up with challenges and constraints for the children to problem solve in an inclusive fun environment.	Participating in any physical activity after school will improve your child's base fitness. Continuing to work on hand-eye coordination by throwing and catching any type of balls will always help them improve on skills in PE.
Music	This half-term we will be further developing recorder skills and be able to play 7 notes. We will learn some new tunes using all these notes.	Children are expected to practice regularly at home.
PSHE (PATHS)	Self- Control and Anger Management will be our focus over the next few weeks. We will be looking at ways to calm down and relax through relaxation practice.	Can you think of some ways which help us to calm down if we are upset or angry about something? Make a list of these.

Where possible we like to take the children out of school, or invite visitors in to speak to the children to enrich their learning. This half term we will be having some visitors in school who will teach us some traditional African tales.

All teachers at St Mary's RC Primary School follow the homework policy.
In year 2 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
English	Friday	Wednesday	Help your child to understand the reading comprehension and ask them how they found the answer to each question.
Reading	Everyday		Read at home with your children every day and sign their reading record. Please ensure your child brings their reading book and reading record to school every day as they will need it for guided reading.
Maths	Friday	Wednesday	Select a few of the questions and ask

			the children to explain how they got the answer. Help children with their 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
Spelling	Friday	Spelling test Tuesday	Practise their spellings daily – help your child to identify the tricky part of the spelling and focus on this part. Discuss spellings in their reading books. Can you put the spelling into sentences? Revisit spellings with your child
Topic	18.01.18	08.02.18	This is a presentation based project related to Africa which you can work on with your child over the next few weeks.

Each class will perform two class assemblies this year.

Our next assembly date is May 23rd.

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches. Please send your child in with his or her PE kit on Monday, and leave it at school until Friday. Any absences from PE need to be explained in a letter.

PE days for Year 2 are Tuesday and Wednesday.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on these days.

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child's class teacher at any time should you wish to discuss progress, attainment or welfare or if you have any questions or worries. We all want happy children who are ready to learn and happy families ready to support good learning!

Kind regards,

Miss Fitzpatrick- Class Teacher

Mr Shoubber- Maths Intervention teacher

Miss Boyce- Support staff