

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



Term: Spring 1
2018/19
Year 5

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 **Thursday 14th February at 2.30pm**. The purpose of the session is to inform you about how we teach writing and to give you the chance to complete some fun activities with your child. 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	<p>This half term, we are reading <i>Danny the Champion of the World</i> by Roald Dahl.</p> <p>We will explore this text in various ways including through writing: diary entries, persuasive arguments, recounts from a character's point of view, and short stories.</p>	<p>Try to make sure your child reads as much as possible and ask them questions about what they're reading to deepen understanding.</p> <p>Encourage your child to read newspapers so that they have more understanding of how newspapers are written.</p>

		Read through your child's English homework and, as well as answering his or her questions, ask your child: "Why have you written that?" and: "Can you make that more interesting?"
Maths	This half term, we will cover – square and cube numbers, multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1,000; and multiples of 10, 100, and 1,000. Towards the end of the half term, we will move on to some shape work and cover perimeter and area.	Assist with your child's homework! Please ask your child simple x tables questions all the time – eg: "What is 4 x 8?" Encourage the use of mathematical language eg: "How many digits are there in the number 10,000?" Encourage your child to use Mathematics – they know their logins and it makes maths fun! Discuss distances and weight with your child.
RE	Mission: We will be concentrating on Jesus' mission and the mission of the Church. We will also be thinking about our own Christian mission. Memorial Sacrifice: In the latter part of this half term, we will be thinking about memorial sacrifice including Eucharist in the lead up to Lent.	Pray every night with your child and encourage them to pray on their own. Encourage selfless prayer: asking God for forgiveness. Also, guide and help their understanding Christian responsibilities.
Science	Living Creatures and their habitats. We will focus on the life cycles of mammals, fish, birds and amphibians and how these differ from one another. We will also look at reproduction in plants and animals.	Encourage your child to think about living creatures and how vast this subject really is. Discuss things around you- are they living, have they ever lived and where did they come from?
Topic	Crime and Punishment through the ages: We will be learning about: Anglo Saxon law; Tudor law; Victorian prisons and; Roman influences on law.	Encourage your child to research and read about history with a focus on crime and punishment. Ask questions that fire their imagination, such as "What might have happened in Tudor times?"
Computing	This half term we will be using the application 'Hopscotch' to programme an interactive game about the local area.	You can download 'Scratch' (it's free!) at: https://scratch.mit.edu/ Please encourage internet research at home.

PE	<p>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.</p> <p>They will also continue to explore and develop the fundamentals of the game with ball control, striking, dribbling. Evasive or “keep ball” 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. This can be achieved with the C.A.R.D.S acronym promoting the following: Creativity, Awareness, Resilience, Decision Making & Self-Organisation.</p>	<p>Please encourage children to do some sort of physical activity every day after School. Also encourage to improve on hand-eye coordination, such as a game of catch. This will help improve on anything we are learning in PE.</p>
Music	<p>This half term, we are lucky enough to have been accepted to be part of a singing project with Wandsworth Schools Music Service. The project involves the learning of songs from a number of genres including pop, Motown and musical theatre. The children will be led by vocal coaches who will visit school over a period of 10 weeks and prepare the class for a final performance for the school.</p>	<p>Expose your child to a range of music: pop, rap, jazz, classical. Discuss harmony and rhythm.</p> <p>Ask your child to practice singing the songs at home and help them to memorise the lyrics.</p>
PSHE (Paths)	<p>This half term, we will be focussing on goals and identity. We will think about how set a goal, make a plan, persevere, and eventually reach your goal!</p>	<p>Encourage your child to set themselves goals and make a plan for how they will achieve them. Talk to them about times when you have persevered and succeeded.</p>
Italian	<p>In Italian this half term, we will cover - telling the time, knowing how to say "before", "then" and "after" and using these with days, months, seasons and everyday activities, and describing daily</p>	<p>If you know any Italian- please speak it! If not, why not ask your child to speak some to you? If you have any Italian films or music, put them on.</p>

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Where possible we like to take the children out of school, or invite visitors in to speak to the children to enrich their learning. We are currently considering a few exciting options for our next trip and will be in touch with more details soon!

All teachers at St Mary's RC Primary School follow the homework policy. In year 5 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
English	Friday	Tuesday	Ensure it is completed and presented well!
Maths	Friday	Tuesday	Check and assist if needed.
Spellings (10 per week)	Friday	Tuesday	Test your child and ask them to use the words in sentences. Check they understand the meaning.

Each class will perform two class assemblies this year. Our next assembly date is **Friday 18th January at 9am.**

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 5 are Monday and Tuesday.
Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Sunday.

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 Bailey-Green (class teacher)
 Mrs Knight (English teacher)
 Mr Shoubber, (maths teacher)
 Mrs Payne (Teaching Assistant)