

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



Term: Spring 2 2019/20
Year group: 1

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to St Mary's RC Primary School, Battersea. We hope that you and your family had a lovely half-term break.

Spring is on its way! The mornings are getting lighter and the staff are refreshed and invigorated, after another excellent training day with fellow Wandsworth Catholic primary schools, at Sacred Heart Primary School in Roehampton. The morning focused on curriculum development led by outside speakers with expertise in RE (linked to art and the God Who Speaks), Science, History and Geography. In the afternoon, teachers met in their different subjects to share good practice and to consider next steps as a Catholic cluster in regards to teaching and learning and curriculum development. We all then met for a closing liturgy with Deacon Michael. So all in all, a lovely and inspirational start to the half term.

During this period of Lent, it is a perfect time for the children to reflect upon their personal goals, attitude to learning and the choices that they make both in class and in the playground, and in their relationships with others. As it mentions in the most recent Wednesday Word,

'Lent is a time for us to make an extra effort to listen carefully to God's word, to try and make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others.'

So that your child/children have a smooth transition back to school this half term, please continue to develop positive learning behaviours at home by encouraging your child to:

- Show **curiosity** and **creativity** by discussing their homework with you, asking questions related to their learning and suggesting ideas.
- Demonstrate **concentration** by finding a quiet area in which to study and organising what they need to complete their homework
- Show **effort, improvement, perseverance** and **resilience** by completing homework tasks fully, to a good standard of presentation and to the best of their ability
- Demonstrate **teamwork** by speaking to their class (or set teacher) before the due date if they need assistance or clarification, and ensuring that they hand homework in on time, so that the class can work together when revising learning and addressing misconceptions.

PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

We continue to celebrate the positive attributes of every child this year through awarding 'Pupil of the Day', which is part of PATHS, our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) programme. 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!

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

-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	Year one are looking at space and significant people linking to our history topic this half term. We are covering Beegu, Tim Peake and Emmeline Pankhurst throughout the half term discussing space and doing some descriptive work around that. We are also looking at adding –ing and –ed to words this half term.	Read and discuss stories about space, people in space and what it looks like. What do you think the planets might look like? Asking questions, inspiring them to wonder about a world outside earth. You can talk about significant people in the U.K from past and present and why these people are important to know about. Just creating a general sense of awe and wonder around the world around them.
Maths	Year one are moving onto measurements. We will explore length and height, weight and volume, time and money. We will be learning to use comparative language when measuring. Children will learn to use tools and equipment such as a ruler and measuring jug to measure. This topic of measurement will also be used to reinforce children’s knowledge in place value within 20.	Explore lengths and heights using language such as longer, shorter and taller. Look at different heights and compare them. Encourage children to familiarise themselves with money, exploring the value of coins and notes. Begin to use the clock to talk about specific times for routines at home, e.g. dinner time is at 6 o’clock.
RE	We will explore Mass, Holy Communion and The Last Supper as our topic changes to Meals. We will then move onto Lent and Easter and discuss why Christians celebrate this.	Encourage the children to think about why we have special meals, linking it to Mass. Take your children to Mass so that they can understand the meaning of the offertory. Talk to your child about why giving to others is so important.
Science	The topic this half term is Plants. Through this topic we will looking at the different types of edible and inedible plants. We will also begin to think about the seasons and their affect upon plants and trees. We will be looking at what plants need to grow.	Any observational discussions of the seasonal changes or the types of plants and trees they have all around them will support our in class discussions. Visit to parks and gardens
Topic	We are looking at significant people in the UK this half term as well as space. We are starting with Beegu, moving onto Tim Peake and Emmeline Pankhurst.	Support you child by discussing important people in UK history and having them wonder about space and the world around them. Discuss astronauts and their training, what they eat and how they get on with
Computing	This half term the children will be using iPad apps called Puppet Pals where they create characters for a story. They will also be using the laptop to research about the evolution of transport. Children will also be using iPads to record interviews role plays and review it on playback.	Support your child to negotiate commands when using the iPad or computer, such as logging in and off. Have discussions about internet safety with your child and use age appropriate apps to ensure they are using the iPad safely.
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 continuing to work at the key musical concepts of rhythm and pitch and adding the elements of tempo and duration. We will also develop instrumental work using pitched and unpitched percussion,	Any discussion of environmental sounds will support the children in this area. What sounds can they hear at home, whilst walking along the street etc? Are they loud or quiet? Long or short?

	and work at graphic scores.	
PATHS	This half term we will be focusing our PATHS sessions on how to deal with our feelings. We will discuss what comfortable and uncomfortable feelings are and how we can change the uncomfortable feelings. Year 1 will be introduced to an 'I am, I think or I wonder' box where they can express what they would like to say in a safe environment.	Have lots of discussions about different emotions that your child is feeling, from happiness, to sadness, and from feeling excited to feeling tired. Discuss reasons for feeling the way that they do, whether it is a comfortable feeling, like excitement, or an uncomfortable feeling, like anxious.

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 are visiting the **Science Museum on Friday 27th March.**

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spellings	Thursday	Tuesday	Children will have a set of 10- 15 spellings to learn over the week. Make sure your child is practising every day and that they are practising the words spelt correctly.
Maths			Encourage your child to use words in sentences orally to ensure they understand the meaning of the words.
English			Discuss with your child what they are going to write and reminding them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound it out - Use capital letters - Use full stops Use finger spaces
Reading	Every day – Children are expected to bring in their reading books with the diary every day and will be changed twice a week providing it has been recorded and signed to acknowledge that they have read		Read with them and correcting any mistakes and asking questions that support their comprehension of the book Children are expected to read at least 5 times a week . They are not expected to finish one book a day, and should be reading at least 10 to 15 minutes each time.

Each class will perform two class assemblies this year. Our year 1 assembly is in June.

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 1: Monday 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 O'Riordan
Ms Boyce