



Term: Autumn 1 2020

Year Group: 1

Information for parents

"We come together at the start of a new school year. This year we come together in a new norm. We may be anxious and worried. We may be tentative and unsure. We may be just wanting to get back to doing what we do. Whatever we are feeling-today is a new start. A new day. A new beginning. And we come to this new start, this new day, this new beginning in the presence of God, our Loving Father"

(Taken from the Prayer of Blessing for the beginning the new school year; SM Staff Inset Day, September 2nd, 2020)

Dear Parents and carers,

We extend a huge welcome to all parents new and old as we begin the 2020/2021 academic year at St Mary's R.C. Primary School. We wish it was under different circumstances but unfortunately, this is the situation we find ourselves in. We hope that you managed to have a relatively relaxing summer, spending time with friends and family following the easing of Lockdown.

The staff are obviously delighted to be back doing the job they love but no doubt, there is some nervousness about the months ahead. It has been wonderful to see the school full again after having reduced numbers since March and very quickly children are adjusting their known routines and behaviours.

As we commence the new academic year, we are reminded of our Federation's Mission Statement, which is based on the parable of 'The Mustard Seed and Yeast' (Matthew 13.31)

"A man took a grain of mustard seed, and sowed it in his field. Indeed, the seed is smaller than all seeds but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches."

We feel that at the heart of this parable is the notion of 'growth', that wonderful things can come from the smallest or humblest of beginnings and that each and every one of our children have God given talents that require nurturing and celebrating. In turn, these gifts from God can inspire and motivate others to succeed and to reach their full potential.

Please support your child in their educational, emotional and spiritual growth by developing a 'Growth Mindset'. 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)**

We very much look forward to an enjoyable and rewarding year ahead at St Mary's, working closely together with our wider school community, our parish and our partner school, Sacred Heart.

-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	This term we will be using the Traditional Tales The Three Little Pigs and Hansel and Gretel to encourage some independent writing, as well as effective use of grammar and handwriting skills.	We are having a big focus on the children's handwriting this term as well as being able to form their own sentences and write them. Any additional practise on letter formation will support us in this. Also reading similar stories at home will support the children's in class discussion of Traditional Tales.
Maths	This term we are focusing on Place Value to 20 and sorting and ordering objects. We are learning to count forwards and backwards from any given number; Identify 1 more and 1 less of numbers to 50; Ordering numbers; Comparing numbers using the language 'equal to', 'more than' and 'less than'	Any additional practise reading and counting numbers to 100 accurately will be a huge help. E.g. identifying bus or house numbers, counting out pieces of pasta for dinner, practising their number bonds to 10 (2 & 8, 4 & 6 etc.) or counting to large numbers whilst walking.
RE	This half term we will be learning about Families. We will be thinking about our own and each other's families, what a family is and about God's love for all families.	Discussing the children's family or 'wider family' with them and how they can/do show their love for each other. We will begin to explore that community can also be part of their 'family'.
Science	We will use our topic to explore the features and differences between various animals including humans. We will use our understanding to design ideal meals for animals and humans.	Discussing the importance of a balanced meal with the children alongside reminding them of the names and uses of their various body parts support their understanding.
History/ Geography	Our topic this term is toys from past to present. We will be exploring the toys we have today and compare to toys from the past. We will explore the materials used over time and their pros and cons. We will design our own ideal toy and create our own toy factory.	Talk to children about their toys and why it is a toy they like or dislike. Explore the different materials used for these toys and why it is a good choice. Research with your child toys from the past and compare it to their own toys.
Computing	We are using an app called Draw and Tell by Duck Duck Moose (It's free), The topic is 'Toy's'	Talk about internet safety and log onto Mathletics getting the children confident using an iPad.
PE	Basketball & Athletics We will be teaching them basic throwing and catching skills that will help improve their hand eye co-ordination through activities/games that include passes used in a number of sports such as basketball. They will be taught different techniques of throwing. We will also be doing some basic athletic activities that aim to improve their movement co-ordination such as agility, balance and jumping. This will be done	To help your children at home, you can continue to practice the skills needed for dodging, by playing 'tag' with your child, or practice their throwing and catching skills. Just get outside moving and getting some exercise in!

	through different circuits.	
Music	Children will be singing songs and learning about rhymes. We will begin to learn the national anthems. Children will also learn about different types of instruments as well as basic concepts on pitch and rhythm.	Encourage the children to listen to a variety of music, question can they pick out any instruments in songs. Song singing throughout the day will help them develop a sense of rhythm.

-All teachers at St Mary's Primary School follow the homework policy.

In year 1 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spellings	Thursday	Tuesday	Practice 2 new words every day
English	Thursday	Tuesday	Read the instructions carefully and prompt your child to use what sounds they do know. Spellings do not need to be perfect!!!
Maths	Thursday Tuesday		Read the instructions carefully and prompt your child to use what sounds they do know. Use objects to help count and drawings where necessary.
Reading	<u>EVERYDAY!</u>		Please read and listen and ask questions with your child every day.

Owing to the Covid-19 epidemic and the need to social distance, unfortunately there will be no assemblies or nativities in the Autumn term.

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches. Please send your child in wearing their PE kit on their PE day and they will wear it for the whole day. Any absences from PE need to be explained in a letter.

PE days for Year 1 is Wednesday

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Wednesday.

There are no before and after clubs this half term (Autumn 1) as this would result in the mixing of 'bubbles'. This will be reviewed at half term.

School staff understand how difficult it is for parents not to be allowed on the premises or to have the chance to speak to their child's teacher. Class teachers are at the doors/gates at the start and end of the day and quick messages can be passed on then. However, if parents have an issue that needs greater time please email via the office using admin@st-marys-pri.wandsworth.sch.uk and the message will be forwarded to the relevant staff.

Kind regards,
Miss O'Riordan
Ms. Mary Ann