



**Term:** Autumn 1 2021  
**Year Group:** 1

### **Information For Parents**

*“Loving God, we ask you to wrap our school family in a cloak of love and protection as our schools reopen this year. Bless our School Family, our Staff and Governors as they continue their good work that they have already begun to ensure a welcoming and safe environment for all. Bless our parents as they again entrust their children, confident we can all work together to help them become the very best they can. Above all, God of Love, we ask you to extend your hand of blessing on our pupils as they joyfully reunite with their friends and all in the School Community. May they continue to progress in their studies and always know they are safe, secure and protected in your loving embrace.*

*We know much will seem very different again this year, but, Gracious God, we are confident that through the intercession of our own Saints, Saint John Bosco, Our Mother Mary, St Joseph and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, your love and care for each of us will never change. May we show the same love and care for one another in all we do and say this year.*  
*Amen”*

***(Final Blessing from Federation Prayer Moment, Staff Inset Day, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021)***

Dear Parents and carers,

We extend a huge welcome to all parents new and old as we begin the 2021/2022 academic year at St Mary’s R.C. Primary School. We hope that you managed to have a relaxing summer, spending time with friends and family.

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.”***

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, Battersea, 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 <b>The Three Little Pigs</b> and <b>Hansel and Gretel</b> to encourage some independent writing, as well as effective use of grammar and handwriting skills. It is extremely important that children learn to begin and finish their letters in the correct places.	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 10; 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 larger numbers whilst walking.
RE	This half term we will be learning about Families. We will be thinking about our	Discussing the children's family or 'wider family' with them and how they can/do show their love for each

	own and each other's families, what a family is and about God's love for all families.	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 of humans. We will be learning different body parts, looking at our senses and what we would do if we were missing a sense e.g. blind/deaf.	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	We are learning about Fireworks linked to Guy Fawkes. The children will learn about bonfire night, the gunpowder plot and how bonfire night has changed over time.	Read books about Guy Fawkes and bonfire night, discuss what fireworks are and when do we see them. Talk about the past and present and what they both mean.
Computing	We are using an app called Draw and Tell by Duck Duck Moose (It's free), The children are drawing and captioning/putting audio the traditional tales we are doing in English.	Talk about internet safety and log onto Mathletics getting the children confident using an iPad.
PE	In Year 1, the children will be developing the fundamental movement skills. They will be doing this through a range of activities and circuits that will aim to improve their running, jumping, throwing and catching. Here there will be a focus on enhancing their gross motor skills and being able to perform an action/skill repeatedly.	When at the park bring a ball, encourage hand eye coordination by using throwing and catching skills
Music	There are 4 main goals to music lessons over the term: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Singing</li> <li>2) Listening:</li> <li>3) Creative Contribution/Composition</li> <li>4) Performance</li> </ol> We will learn how to warm up our voices and control them and how to sing back notes that we hear. Children will be learning new songs; material that will cross-over with class themes. Children will also be learning songs into different languages.	Introduce them to different genres of music and teach them the words for what instruments are playing. (Like a trumpet in Jazz etc.) Explain different parts to them. For example the drums are doing this but the singer is doing that.

All teachers at St Mary's R.C 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	<b><u>EVERYDAY!</u></b>		<b>Please read and listen and ask questions with your child every day.</b>

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 are Tuesday and Wednesday.**

**Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Tuesday and Wednesday**

Kind regards,

Miss O'Riordan

Ms Mary Ann

Miss Lerena