



### Information For Parents

**“A new year is a new beginning. Each day Lord, you allow me to have a new beginning. Each day Lord, you allow me to start again. Each day Lord, I walk with you-and you carry me.”**

*(taken from Deacon Michael’s reflection to begin the new year; Federation Inset Day, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022)*

Dear Parents and carers,

A very happy new year to you all! We sincerely hope you managed to have as safe and restful a Christmas break as possible with your friends and families. We wish you and your family a happy and blessed 2022.

As the new year brings resolutions, personal goals and renewed focus, this is a perfect time to remind your child of their targets and areas to improve with their learning. Please support them in achieving these goals by encouraging them to develop their learning behaviours. The [8 learning behaviours](#) we focus on at school are:

**Not giving up   Being curious   Having a go   Co-operating   Enjoying learning  
Improving   Using your imagination   Concentrating**

### Good News for Families

Along with encouraging and supporting your child in their learning journey, it is also a very good time for your child 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022-Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22 ‘The Baptism of the Lord’):

“The new year presents an opportunity to remember, or to discover, the blessings received at Baptism. Ask your child what else they know about baptism. If your child has been baptised, do they know where they were baptised and who baptised them? Do they know their godparents?”

***At Jesus’ Baptism, the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus making him ready to begin his great work: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God’s own life.***

***How can we live more like Jesus as we begin this new year?*** Perhaps we can: always try to help around the home; remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; as a family, resolve to support a charity in 2022; be peacemakers and try to make friends with someone we’ve fallen out with. You may like to choose something new to start together that will strengthen your family.

***Dear Lord Jesus,***

***You are God’s beloved Son. Thank you for the gift of baptism. May we always remember that we too are the beloved children of God.***

***Amen***

**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
Literacy	<p>Key texts: Zog by Julia Donaldson; The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson; Thelma the Unicorn by Aaron Blabey; Supertato by Sue Hendra</p> <p>Phonics – working through units 4,5 and 6 of the initial code; reading and writing CVC and some CVCC words.</p> <p>Writing labels and short captions.</p> <p>Sequencing and labelling a familiar story.</p>	<p>Help and support your child with their homework.</p> <p>Listen to your child read their home reader every night.</p> <p>Practise reading the ‘tricky words’ with flash cards or games. You could write the words on note paper and go on a word hunt around your house. Play word splat with fly swatters, spatulas or your hands – call out the word, who can be the fastest to splat that word correctly.</p>
Maths	<p>Adding groups together between 1-5 and becoming familiar with the ‘plus’ and ‘equals’ symbols.</p> <p>Writing numerals 1-10 more confidently.</p> <p>Exploring part and whole numbers.</p>	<p>Find number and maths in your environment. Play number games either with cards, board games or make up your own.</p>
RE	<p>The life of Jesus and his family.</p> <p>Gathering: learning about coming together to share the word of God in Church and in our lives. This may include a trip to our parish Church.</p> <p>Growing: exploring changes over time and growing in God’s love.</p>	<p>If you and your family go to Church discuss this with your child. Why, where, when?</p>
Understanding of the World	<p>Our topic for learning is Mythical Creatures and Superheroes. We will be learning about dragons, unicorns, the real and mythical world and the characteristics of a superhero.</p> <p>Explore cause and effect relationships with science experiments.</p>	<p>Look up fun ‘home science experiments’ to do together.</p> <p>Read books about mythical creatures and discuss your favourites and why. Is it because they are fast, friendly, fierce etc?</p>
Communication and Language	<p>Understanding and using positional language correctly.</p> <p>Build our vocabulary with narrative and descriptive words, particularly those related to animal coverings and characteristics e.g. strong, fast, spiky, furry, smooth, rough, gentle, powerful, stripy.</p>	<p>Play games, talk and read together.</p> <p>Encourage full sentence responses and requests.</p> <p>Look at books and information on computers about your child’s special interests.</p>

PSED	Our body's reaction to high emotion situations and what we can do to regulate our emotions. Labelling and build vocabulary around uncomfortable and comfortable emotions. Words such as disappointed, jealous, excited, overjoyed, calm.	Talk about emotions and label your own emotions in front of your child to build their understanding that everyone has feelings. Identify times of high emotions in books and tv shows e.g. "oh he looks disappointed because....." Or "she was jealous because she wanted what her friend had."
Physical Development	Learning and refining ball skills: Throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling, bounce and catch. Refine pencil grip and control with fine motor strength building activities.	Make up an obstacle course in the park, garden or home. Talk about healthy living with your child and why we make healthy choices for our bodies and minds. Find an online physical program to follow such as Cosmic Kids yoga or GoNoodle.
Expressive Art and Design	Imagining and designing our own mythical creatures. Using playdough to build representations of creatures. Design and build a trap for the 'villain' Evil Pea in the Supertato story.	Look at books and information about your child's special interests. Maybe you could start a fun 'home' project finding out all about your favourite animal. Draw pictures, write down facts, make up and write a story about it.
PATHS	What can we do in times of high emotion – learning the 'TURTLE' technique. Sorting comfortable and uncomfortable feelings.	Ask your child to tell you about the 'turtle' technique.

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

**In Reception we will follow this homework timetable:**

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Reading	Daily	Daily	Comment and sign your child's reading record.
Across curriculum Homework tasks	Thursday	Tuesday	Support and guide your child through the tasks. Encourage them to do it themselves. Help your child return their homework book on time.

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 day for Year Reception is Wednesday.**

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

Kind regards,  
Miss McDougall  
Miss Eva  
Miss Fifi  
Miss Leah