



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, 4th 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 9th 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
English	<p>In writing this half we term we will be using a number of books for stimulus that are linked to our history topic of explorers. We are using Zeraffa Giraffa by Dianne Hofmyer and Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann. These will form the stimulus for some persuasive writing, letter writing, writing in role and grammar work. We are continuing to use capital letters and full stops as well as introducing using the suffix –ed and –ing.</p> <p>We are reading Fantastic Mr Fox and The Twits for pleasure.</p>	<p>Support grammar by reminding children to use capital letters and full stops when writing, as well as pointing out the suffixes when you see them in reading. Read lots of books around explorers, people going on journeys. Talk about Roald Dahl and other books and poems he has written, discuss his contribution to the book world.</p>
Maths	<p>This term we will be continuing to develop the children’s understanding of addition and subtraction and numbers up to 20 first. We will continue to use equipment and contexts to support the children as they add numbers to and past 20, using both resources, drawings and the number line to help them. We will be looking at numbers up to 50, counting in 10s and one more and ones less.</p>	<p>Counting up to and beyond 20, write the numbers in numerals and in words and comparing it with numbers below 10. You can use fingers sweets, food, pencils, toys, and anything that can be counted! Revising the number bonds to 10, both adding and subtracting as well as seeing if your child can relate addition and subtraction number sentences.</p>
RE	<p>We will begin this half term by thinking about Special People. Through this topic we will discuss people who are special to us, special at church and who were special to Jesus. We will then explore Mass, Holy Communion and The Last Supper as our topic changes to Meals.</p>	<p>Encourage the children to think about Special People in their lives. Who helps them? Where do we find special people (outside of your family)? What are the roles in Mass? Think about the priest, altar servers, readers, musicians etc. These are also the key vocabulary for the topic.</p>
Science	<p>The topic this half term is Plants. Through this topic we will be 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 look at plants and trees that are in the local area as well as different types of trees. We will also look at the topic of Spring and changing seasons.</p>	<p>Use any time you have outside to discuss the trees and flowers you see, what do they notice? Is there anything the same and different about them? Can you choose an area of the park you visit regularly and notice any changes there? Discuss night and day and the changing of season from winter to spring.</p>
History	<p>We are looking at explorers this half term. We are looking at Christopher Columbus and Matthew Henson. We will be looking at their contribution to what we know about the world today and using them to learn about different places in the world. The children will begin to understand a</p>	<p>Read books about different explorers, about people taking long journeys both in the past and present. Discuss differences between travelling in the past and now, how and why are they different, speak to grandparents/ older relatives about travel when they were children to get a</p>

	sense of time passing and the difference between travelling around the world 100 years ago and longer, to now.	sense of time and past and present.
Computing	The children will be learning how to do basic coding in ICT. They will use Beebots and the iPads to learn how to move the beebots and give directions. We will be talking about online safety and what kind of things are ok to put online.	At home you could download the free app kodable to practice and talk about the kinds of things that are safe to go online. Remind children that if they are unsure about anything, they should always check with a trusted adult.
PE	In Year 1, children will be looking to develop the fundamental movement skills used and need in football. Each session will look at a range of football activities that will target areas of football such as teamwork, dribbling, close control, passing, goal scoring, running, jumping, throwing, and catching. Focusing on enhancing a basic knowledge and understanding of certain rules will also allow each child to perform an action/skill repeatedly. We are also learning about throwing and catching for accuracy.	Practice kicking a football at home, moving and dribbling the ball and kicking for accuracy. The same is necessary for throwing and catching, practice over and under arm throwing, as well as throwing for accuracy and distance. Keep fit and active by getting outside!
Music	Music Knowledge: children will continue their basic knowledge of music notation. Active listening: Children will be listening to a wide array of music, they will be encouraged to respond to this music through other means of expression. Participation: Children will make contributions to the class lessons through role playing, or performing solos, either with voice or instrument. Children will be learning key material to sing, expanding their knowledge of different genres such as musicals and film music.	How can you help your child at home? Introduce children to different genres of music whilst listening at home; Exploring different radio stations or exploring different genre's on music platforms.

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	Children will have a set of 10 spellings to learn over the week. Make sure your child is practising every day and that they are practising the words spelt correctly. Encourage your child to use words in sentences orally to ensure they understand the meaning of the words.
Maths			Reading questions and ensuring that they understand the questions. Ask your child to explain how they got the answer

English			<p>Discuss with your child what they are going to write and reminding them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound it out - Use capital letters - Use full stops - Use finger spaces
Reading	<p>Every day – Children are expected to bring in their reading books with the diary every day and will be changed at least twice a week providing it has been recorded and signed to acknowledge that they have read.</p>		<p>Read with them and correcting any mistakes and asking questions that support their comprehension of the book</p> <p>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.</p>

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 Friday

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

Kind regards,
Ms O'Riordan
Mrs Mary Ann
Miss Lerena