



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>This half term, we are reading <i>Danny the Champion of the World</i> by Roald Dahl. We will explore this text in various ways including through writing: diary entries, persuasive arguments, recounts from a characters' point of view, and short stories. In Guided Reading, we will be continuing to read <i>The Explorer</i> and we'll be working on our inference skills and summarising passages.</p>	<p>Try to make sure your child reads as much as possible and ask them questions about what they're reading to deepen understanding.</p> <p>Writing a journal at home is a really useful habit – it's fun and provides that little bit of extra writing practice.</p>
Maths	<p>We will be covering prime numbers, square numbers and powers of ten in Multiplication and Division.</p> <p>We will then move on to geometry and will be looking at perimeter and area.</p>	<p>Please ask your child simple x tables questions all the time – eg: "What is 4 x 8?" Encourage the use of mathematical language eg: "How many digits are there in the number 10,000?"</p> <p>Encourage your child to use Mathletics and TTRS – they know their logins and they make maths fun! Discuss distances, weight and time with your child.</p>
RE	<p>Mission: We will be concentrating on Jesus' mission and the mission of the Church. We will also be thinking about our own Christian mission.</p> <p>Memorial Sacrifice: In the latter part of this half term, we will be thinking about memorial sacrifice including Eucharist in the lead up to Lent.</p>	<p>Pray every night with your child and encourage them to pray on their own. Encourage selfless prayer: asking God for forgiveness. Also, guide and help their understanding Christian responsibilities.</p>
Science	<p>Living Creatures and their habitats. We will focus on the life cycles of mammals, fish, birds and amphibians and how these differ from one another. We will also look at reproduction in plants.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to think about living creatures and how vast this subject really is. Discuss things around you- are they living, have they ever lived and where did they come from?</p>
History/ Geography	<p>We will be learning about Migration, with a focus on the Windrush. We will learn about Britain and the Commonwealth in the aftermath of WW11, migration from the Caribbean during the same period, and the establishment of the NHS in 1948. Towards the end of the half term, we will listen to some songs from the time of the Windrush and paint some Caribbean scenes.</p>	<p>Discuss migration through history with your child. Talk about when significant events happened (in your family and the wider world). For example – when were older people in your family born? When did the second world war end? When was the Windrush?</p>
Computing	<p>This half term we will be working on computer science and programming a game, using block coding including the repeat and random blocks.</p>	<p>You can download free coding software at home: 'Scratch' https://scratch.mit.edu/ Please continue to have ongoing discussions about safe, responsible and respectful internet use with your child.</p>

PE	This term, Year 5 will be practising football skills. Key points for each lesson are to develop their passing, dribbling, close control, and the various techniques of shooting. This will help enhance their ability to apply teamwork skills and in 3v3/4v4/5v5 combination play. Within a match situation, they will work to gain an understanding of tactical awareness, communication skills and both attacking and defending principals.	Please encourage children to do some sort of physical activity every day after school.
Music	Samba Drumming- Children will learn songs from and about South and Central America including songs sung in Spanish and Portuguese. They will explore the various influences on the music from Africa, Europe, and indigenous cultures. There will be a focus on Brazilian Samba, with children learning samba together as a class, composing a class samba, and small group compositions.	Listen to a variety of music styles, including Samba music. Encourage your child to clap along with the rhythms learnt in class, stomp beats and make homemade Samba instruments from everyday household objects.
Italian (KS2 only)	In Italian this half term, we will cover - telling the time, knowing how to say "before", "then" and "after" and using these with days, months, seasons and everyday activities, and describing daily routines.	A useful resource for parents interested in supporting Italian at home is the free website: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/italian/italian.htm

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

In year 5 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spellings	Friday	Tuesday	Test your child and ask them to use the words in sentences. Check they understand the meaning.
Maths			Check and assist if needed.
English			Check and assist if needed.
Reading	Every evening		Check that your child is reading every evening. They should write which pages they have read in their reading record. Ask them questions about what they have read. Please listen to your child read at least once a week.

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.

Our PE day is Monday.

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

Kind regards,

Miss Bailey-Green

Mrs Payne

Miss Webb

Mrs Knight

Mr Shoubber