



Information for Parents

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break. We hope that you and your family had a relaxing time.

Despite the recent stormy weather, Spring is definitely on its way! The Spring bulbs are out and the days are gradually becoming lighter.

During this period of Lent, it is a perfect time for the children to reflect upon their personal goals, attitude to learning and the choices that they make at school and at home.

'Lent is a special time when the Church invites everyone to examine their lives, to make Lenten promises and make a fresh start with God and with each other. It's a time to make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others.'

Please continue to develop positive learning behaviours at home and in school by encouraging your child to:

- Show *curiosity* and *creativity* by discussing their homework with you, asking questions related to their learning and suggesting ideas.
- Demonstrate *concentration* by finding a quiet area in which to study and organising what they need to complete their homework
- Show *effort, improvement, perseverance* and *resilience* by completing homework tasks fully, to a good standard of presentation and to the best of their ability
- Demonstrate *teamwork* by speaking to their class (or set teacher) before the due date if they need assistance or clarification, and ensuring that they hand homework in on time, so that the class can work together when revising learning and addressing misconceptions.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please help us to be good friends to our family, our neighbours and all who we meet through our words and actions.

Amen

Here is a brief outline of what your child will be learning about this half term: **Our topic is Dinosaurs.**

Subject	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home
Literacy	We will be looking at Non-fiction Dinosaur books, finding information. We will be making our own books and naming the different parts of a book.	Ask them to tell you what they have found out about dinosaurs. Keep writing their names with them at home.
Maths	We will be continuing to learn with the Numberblocks. We will be learning how to play simple Tops Trumps, seeing which numbers are bigger and smaller. We will be comparing sizes and using words like taller and shorter, bigger and smaller.	You can help your child by counting to 10, comparing more or less and using those words to compare groups of objects. Compare toys and objects and people at home – who is the tallest, or shortest?
RE	We will be talking about Jesus growing up, Lent and Easter. We will be looking at growth and change.	Look for signs of change on your journey to school, is it light or dark? Can you see flowers appearing or trees changing?
Understanding of the World	The children will be finding out all they can about dinosaurs. We will be thinking about why they are extinct, what they world would have been like with dinosaurs all around. We will be sowing seeds and looking at signs of spring in our nursery.	Encourage your child to tell you about their favourite dinosaur – why do they like it?
Communication and Language	We will be making different sounds and movements with our mouths. We will be describing dinosaurs and learning new words to talk about them. Our role play area will become a Dinosaur Den and the children can go on explorations to look at the dinosaurs.	Encourage your child to speak using whole sentences. Look in the mirror with your child. Make funny sounds and watch how your mouth moves when you make the sounds.
PSED	We will be thinking about the language needed to encourage other children to join in with our games. We will be thinking about waiting our turn for something and using our words to ask for something that we want.	Play turn taking games with your child at home.
Physical Development	We will be continuing to develop our pencil grips and we will be building with our community blocks. We will be writing the letters in our name. We will doing finger gym exercises and have dough discos. We will be using our whole bodies to make large movements.	Help your child build up strength in their hands in fingers by using tools, opening and closing pegs, painting and doing finger gym exercises. Encourage your child to put their coat on at home by themselves.
Expressive Art and Design	The children will be painting, drawing, and collaging. We will be making Easter cards and a decorating a Lenten tree.	Draw, paint, dance, sing and move at home!
PATHS	We will continue to learn about our PATHS friends Twiggle, Henrietta, Duke and Daphne. We will be thinking about friendships – who are our friends.	Ask your child to tell you who they play with at nursery. Why do they like to play with them?

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

In Nursery we will follow this homework timetable:

Reading	Reading books will be changed on Mondays . Please read with your child and write any comments in their reading record.
Homework books	There are activities for your child to do at home in their home learning book and letter formation each week. These are changed on Fridays .

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child's class teacher at any time should you wish to discuss progress, attainment or welfare or if you have any questions or worries. We all want happy children who are ready to learn and happy families ready to support good learning!

Kind regards

Class Teacher: Mrs Liz Ostrowski

Miss Kate Carroll

Support Staff: Ms Belinda Boyce

Ms Melissa Traynor

Ms Leah Cronin