



## 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:

Subject	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home
<b>English</b>	This half term we are reading the story of 'The Secret of BlackRock'. It is a story about a girl living in a fishing village and her desire to find out what is happening on a big rock in the sea. We will be learning about fishing communities, looking at question marks, descriptions, poetry and the viewpoints of other characters.	Discuss fishing villages and communities, read books, watch programs about it. Do some research and allow children to ask questions about these communities. If you can, find out some answers together by doing some research.
<b>Maths</b>	We are looking at place value in numbers up to 50, counting forwards and back, knowing one more and one less up to 50, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We will go back and revise calculation strategies to 20.	You can practise counting with your children in 2s, 5s and 10s, ask them one more or one less up to 50. Revise number bonds to 20 and ensure they can quickly recall these number facts.
<b>RE</b>	We will explore Mass, Holy Communion and The Last Supper as our topic changes to Meals. We will then move onto Lent and Easter and discuss why Christians celebrate this.	Encourage the children to think about why we have special meals, linking it to Mass. Take your children to Mass so that they can understand the meaning of the offertory. Talk to your child about why giving to others is so important.
<b>Science</b>	Our topic in science is seasonal changes and plants. We will be looking at the changes in weather and comparing the weather now to other seasons as well as the basic structure of plants and trees.	Use anytime you have outside (including walking to and from school) to discuss the weather and compare it to what it was like a month ago. Talk about the longer days and how it is getting lighter earlier and it is still light later in the evening. Observe the plants over the term and see flowers blooming and explain why this might be.
<b>Geography</b>	We are learning about the U.K. and capital cities. The children will look at key physical, human and cultural features of these countries. We will be working on map skills and using atlas' and google maps to locate different places.	Use google maps when going somewhere and ask the children what they can see e.g. parks, rivers, stations etc. Discuss the difference of the U.K and what people come here to visit, how many have you been to or heard about?
<b>Computing</b>	The children will learn how to log into Google Classroom and be confident using it. They will be working on using the camera, taking photos and retelling stories.	Log in at home and get used to the system at home. Log in to Rising Stars and Athletics independently. Take photos of things, holding the camera correctly and getting in the whole object.
<b>PE</b>	Children will be learning the basic throwing techniques, such as how to control a ball when they are rolling and bouncing, throwing and catching, on their own, with a partner and in a group.	Participating in any physical activity after School will improve your child's base fitness. Any type of throwing & catching games will help your child with this term's topic in PE.
<b>Music</b>	Children will continue their basic knowledge of music notation; crotchets and rest, and learning to play simple music notation via the xylophone. Children will be listening to a wide array of music. Children will be learning key material to sing, expanding their knowledge of different genres such as musicals and film music.	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:**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Handed out</b>	<b>Due in on</b>	<b>How you can help</b>
<b>Spellings</b>	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.
<b>Maths</b>			Reading questions and ensuring that they understand the questions. Ask your child to explain how they got the answer.
<b>English</b>			<b>Discuss with your child what they are going to write and reminding them to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sound it out</li><li>- Use capital letters</li><li>- Use full stops</li><li>- Use finger spaces</li></ul>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Every day – Children are expected to bring in their reading books with the diary every day and will be changed twice a week providing it has been recorded and signed to acknowledge that they have read.</b>		Read with them and correcting any mistakes and asking questions that support their comprehension of the book 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.

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 these days.

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