



St Mary's Catholic First School
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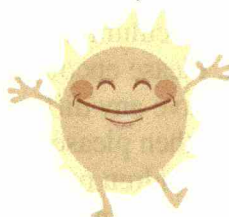


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Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



14th September 2018



Dear parents,

Welcome to two new families and welcome back to everybody else! We hope you have had a great summer break and managed to have some quality family time.

Accompanying this letter is our autumn term topic web with the outline of some of the things your child will be learning. Many of our lessons link across the curriculum as we find children learn better this way. The year's planning has been designed around the ideas that your children gave to us during the inset day in July. We have tried to include everybody's wishes so hopefully they will all feel ownership of and engaged with their learning.

In Year 2 our ongoing daily sessions will include:

Early bird Activities

When children first arrive in the classroom they are given an activity to undertake. This is an important part of the day as it settles the class quickly so that they are ready to learn, it provides a steady routine at the start of the day and it provides an opportunity for small independent pieces of work that reinforce what we have either taught the previous week/s or what we are doing at present. The doors open at 8.40 and the children come into the class ready to learn. The class register is taken at 8.50.

Reading

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of sharing books with your child at home. Most Year 2 children will have an opportunity during the day to change their home reading book when needed by themselves and they are rewarded with a sticker on their bookmark. When the child has filled the bookmark up then they take it home and the process starts all over again. Please start/carry on listening to your child read daily as it will enable them to access the rest of the curriculum more confidently and is an essential lifelong skill to have. To help you with the writing of comments in the reading journals I will be shortly sending home examples of comments that are helpful to us at school. All comments help in our assessment of your child and their

reading ability. The variety of texts they read is also important so please encourage your child to read short stories, non-fiction, poetry and plays.

Library

Year 2 have a library session every Wednesday afternoon where they have the opportunity to change their library book. Please remind your child to bring their library book back to school each Wednesday. Sadly we have lost many books over the last few years which as you can imagine is a costly affair.

Spellings

Your child will bring home spellings to learn every Friday. The spellings will relate to either the national curriculum list of spellings for this age group or to a topic that we are learning about. Please encourage and support your child in the learning of these spellings. If you have any difficulties with this or want more ideas on how to teach spellings at home then please ask. On a Friday morning there will be a dictation lesson where children put these spellings learned into sentences, a requirement for Year 2 children. Your child will then be given new spellings to learn for the following week.

Home Learning

Every Friday there will be a piece of home learning given out. This usually relates to a piece of work we have completed previously so that the learning is consolidated. Please encourage your child to complete this by the following Friday.

PE

Mr Mason, our specialist PE teacher, teaches PE to Year 2 on a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure that your child brings in their PE kit every Wednesday. As the days get colder your child can wear dark coloured jogging bottoms/leggings and a dark coloured tracksuit top/sweatshirt.

Water bottles

Just a reminder please that your child needs to have a water bottle in school each day. This is kept in the classroom so that they can drink when they need to.

Labelling clothing

We have already had a few children say that they have “lost” their school jumper and it is much easier to find it if it is named. Please remember to label all of your child’s school clothing as we understand how expensive it is to replace.

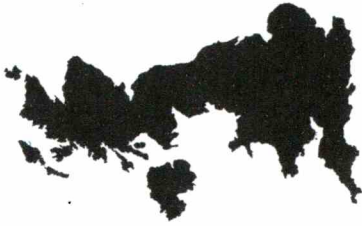
Many Thanks
Jo Bourne and the Year 2 Team

Numeracy

We will be exploring place value and the four operations of adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying. This will be linked to our topic and everyday activities wherever suitable. There will be regular problem solving, reasoning and discussion about our maths.

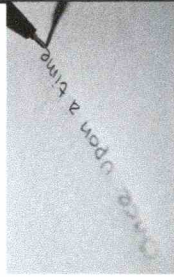
Geography and History

We will be exploring areas of the UK through our castle topic. This will involve debating about favourite castles, thinking about why they were built in particular places and a field trip to Lulworth castle. Map skills will be developed alongside recognition of different UK counties, capital cities and landmarks.



Literacy

We will be planning, writing and editing a story set in a castle. Non-fiction writing will be linked to researching castles and creating an eye spy for a school trip to Lulworth castle. After half term the children will be exploring poetry based on bonfire night and will be writing instructions on how to stay safe. This will be followed by Christmas letter writing, story writing and reading plays.



What was life like inside a castle?



Year 2 - Autumn 2018

Science

In the first half term we are exploring everyday materials. This will include planning and conducting a simple experiment. In the second half term we are looking at hygiene and eating healthily. This will link to our PE lessons on staying fit.



RE

In term one we will be discussing the creation story and learning more about Prayer life, Feasts and Saints. The children will discover more about the Islamic faith before half term. After half term we will be preparing for Christmas with our Advent topic and find out more about Sacraments.



Art/DT

In DT we will be designing, building and evaluating a castle structure that can stand up - thinking through how the materials will join and the overall finished effect.

After half term In Art we will be painting and using clay.



ICT

Your child will be learning more about how to stay safe using different media and how to create a simple animation - linked to the term's topic of Castles.

