



St Mary's Catholic First School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



11th September 2020



Dear Parents,

We hope you managed to enjoy some quality time with your family and friends over the summer break.

We have been really looking forward to meeting our new Year 1 class and getting to know them all. After this very unusual year, we want to ensure the return to school this term goes as smoothly as possible. As you already know, we have been putting in place measures to keep the children safe at school. Each child will be in their class 'bubble', they will have their own equipment to use in the classroom and we will continue the hygiene routines set up last term.

The children will arrive by using the first door to the classroom, they will prepare themselves for the start of the day. We encourage them to be responsible for their belongings in school. At the end of the day, the children will exit the classroom by the door beyond the black gate. We would appreciate it if you can ensure they have all their belongings with them when they leave.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the Topic Web for the Autumn term, which gives an overview of the curriculum your children will be working on this term.

This half term we will be focusing on getting the children happily settled into working in year 1 and making sure the curriculum meets their needs. We will also be timetabling continuous provision slots to help the children to transition more confidently into learning in Year 1, using various spaces inside and outside our classroom. We have created a more welcoming outside area and also updated our reading area, which is a lovely haven for the children to read and enjoy a selection of books.



Literacy and Topic work

We start this term with activities based on the story 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers. This will enable the children to reflect on their feelings about returning to school and their place in our class community. We will then move onto our topic 'Once Upon a Time'. We will be using Talk4Writing to map and retell the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and then begin to explore writing the story as a narrative. We will be practicing cursive handwriting in discrete sessions to learn how to form letters correctly.

The theme of 'Once upon a time' is woven across other subject areas. We will be learning about materials and testing those suitable for a house for a little pig in Science and Forest School sessions and identifying familiar phrases in familiar stories by listening to the 'Little Pigs Blues'. We will also be reading the story of the 'Elves and the Shoemaker', exploring how to design and make a shoe of our own in DT.

Phonics and Reading

Every day we will have a dedicated Read Write Inc phonics slot. We will be revising the sounds learned last year and introduce a new sound each day to build on our prior knowledge.

Guided reading groups meet every day. At the end of each week we will send home the Read Write Inc book your child has been reading that week in an A5 folder. The children will be taught how to read their texts independently as the year goes on. Please listen to them read their book at home with you and return it to school each **Monday**. Additional reading books will be changed at school during the week. Please try to ensure your child's reading record is in their book bag every day, this is important as we record when they have been in guided reading sessions at school. Please continue reading regularly with them at home as it has such a positive impact on their fluency in reading and their writing. It also gives them so much confidence in all aspects of their learning in school.

RE

We will be continuing to have a weekly RE lesson and Liturgy using the Ten Ten resources, which the children really engaged with positively last year. We will be following a RE new scheme - 'Come and See' linking to St Mary's Gospel Values. Our year 1 Gospel Value is 'kindness' and this is what underpins everything we do in Year 1.

PE, School Uniform and Water Bottles

We are delighted that Mr Mason, our PE specialist, will be teaching year 1 PE on a Wednesday afternoon. Please make sure your child arrives in their labelled PE kit at school on a Wednesday.

As the days become more autumnal, the children need to come to school with a jumper and coat suitable for all weathers. We would be very grateful if all uniform items and PE kit are clearly labelled, including ties, shoes and plimsolls/trainers. When uniform items do occasionally go astray, it makes it so much easier to return it. We would also be grateful if you can make sure your child has a clearly labelled water bottle with them at school every day.

Home Learning

Home learning will usually be set at the end of each week. This will either be a project task to be completed over several weeks or a shorter activity (normally literacy or

numeracy) to complete at home. For some of the home learning, we will set activities on Education City.

This half term, to link in with our class topic - 'Once upon a time', we would like the children to try a project at home. The project is to make a strong, dry home for one of the three little pigs. The challenge will be to make your piggy home waterproof and wolf-proof! Please take some photographs of your child's home learning and we will have a sharing session so the children can tell us about their project.

Forest School

We plan to have regular Forest School slots as part of our curriculum. Therefore, the children will need to have their kit in the cloakroom at school every day (wellington boots, waterproof trousers and a waterproof jacket). Forest school items can be taken home on a Friday, but must be returned the following Monday please.

We will continue to encourage the children to become more independent in year 1, this starts when they arrive in the mornings to get themselves ready for the day. Please inform us, in the morning, if a different adult is collecting your child at the end of the day.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please email or phone the school office.

The Year 1 Team

Checklist

Monday	Return reading book to school Bring in Forest School kit
Tuesday	
Wednesday	PE kit all day
Thursday	
Friday	Reading book to go home Take home Forest School kit to clean

Items needed every day:

- named book bag
- reading record
- named water bottle
- packed lunch (if needed)
- jumper or cardigan and suitable coat

Mrs Gannon
Year 1 Class Teacher