



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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At St Mary's we live and learn sharing God's love

19th September 2019

Key Stage 2 - Welcome Letter

Dear Parent/Carer

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year and it has been lovely having the children back in school. We hope your child has enjoyed the first 3 weeks in their new class and have settled in well. We are very much looking forward to working with you and your child this year and have an exciting year planned. This letter will give you some information about the organisation and day to day running of the KS2 department as well as an overview of what we have planned for this term. Thank you to those of you that attended our Curriculum meetings this week, we hope you found these helpful and informative.

Class Organisation

There are three classes in the LKS2 department this year. The classes are organised as follows:

Year 3 - Miss Moriarty

Year 3/4 - Miss Lancaster

Year 4 - Mrs Hunter

Mrs Foss, Mrs Knight, Mrs Woodward, Miss Hopcroft and Mrs Wall are the support staff working in the LKS2 department this year.

There are three classes in the UKS2 department this year. The classes are organised as follows:

Year 5 - Mr Raby

Year 5/6 - Miss Hindle

Year 6 - Mrs Pinson

Mrs Singo, Mrs Derry, Mr Bowman, Mrs Yeo and Miss Kisella are the support staff working in the UKS2 department this year.

The Curriculum Autumn Term Topics

RE

We continue to teach RE using the *Come and See* programme.

The themes for this term are:

Domestic Church - Family
Baptism/Confirmation - Belonging
Advent/Christmas - Loving
Other Faith week - Judaism

Values

In KS2 the children focus on a key value. The values for this term are as follows:

September - Hope
October - Friendship
November - Peace
December - Thoughtfulness

Wider Curriculum

As you may know, we have been very busy redesigning our curriculum to ensure that it best meets the needs of our children at St. Mary's. Each term is themed around a different locality, so that over the year the children study a local, national and global area. We are very excited about the work we have planned and are looking forward to the year ahead!

Year 3 / 4: Autumn - Preston (A local history study of Preston, as well as a study of the human and physical characteristics of the city.)

Year 5 / 6: Autumn - Oh I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside (An historical study of holidays through time with links to the Victorian era, as well as a geographical study of Blackpool.)

In addition to this, we also have a British History Week and a Roman themed week this term. Please see the yearly curriculum maps and termly curriculum overviews on our school website for more information.

PE

It is essential that your child has a full PE kit in school at all times. This consists of a plain white t-shirt, navy blue shorts and pumps. Can we please also ask that all children have an outdoor kit as some lessons will be taking place outdoors. This should consist of a pair of trainers and a pair of tracksuit/jogging bottoms. Please make sure that all items are clearly labelled.

Clubs

The following clubs are taking place this term:

Choir - Monday after school (Mrs Lee & Miss Moriarty)

Creative Writing Club (selected Y4 children) - Tuesday after school (Miss Lancaster)

Faith In Action (Y6 only) - Wednesday lunchtime (Mrs Sayers)

Football (Year 5 and 6 only) - Wednesday after school (Mr Bowman)

Zumba - Thursday after school (Mrs Hodges)

Maths Club (selected Y5 & Y6 children) - Thursday after school (Mrs Malone)

Eco Warrior club - details to follow in Autumn 2.

South Ribble Sports Development club - details to follow in Autumn 2.

Sports Hall Athletics - details to follow in Autumn 2.

Letters for each club with further details to follow.

Homework

Homework grid

All children will receive a homework grid each half term that links to the topic being covered that half term. We ask that the children complete one piece of work a week and bring it into school no later than the following Wednesday.

Maths homework

Each week the children will continue to receive a piece of maths homework. This will be linked directly to the Maths lessons taught during the week. Again this will be sent home on a Friday and should be returned for the following Wednesday.

Times Table practice

We continue to use 'Times Tables Rock Stars' in school. If anyone has lost or forgotten their login details, please speak to your child's class teacher. Times tables practice cannot be underestimated as it underpins much of the work done in other areas of Mathematics. It is essential that children have a secure grasp of the times tables up to and including the 12 times tables. Once children are secure in these, it is important that they extend their knowledge and application beyond this. For example, if they know the 6 times tables then can they use this to answer questions that require them to multiply by 60, 600, 6000, 0.6, 0.06 and so on.

In June 2020, all year 4 pupils across the country will be required to complete an online Multiplication Tables Check. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

Spellings

Spellings will be sent home each week. The spellings relate to the spelling lessons taught during the week. They may include some tricky words, high frequency words or common exception words as well as spelling patterns. We recognise that the words may appear to sometimes be challenging but they are reflective of the current curriculum and indeed the teaching and learning expectations in class. Please help your child to practise their spellings ready for the spelling check/test on a Friday.

As well as learning spelling rules, each year group has a list of additional words that they need to be able to read and spell. These are called 'Common Exception words'. These have been sent home and are also on our school website. Children practise these words in school but it would help greatly if they could also learn these at home. Please ask your child's class teacher if you would like another copy of these sending home.

Reading

We cannot stress enough the importance of reading at home and ask that children read each day. We ask that reading records are signed and returned to school so that home reading can be monitored by your child's class teacher. Reading books can be changed on any day of the week. It is important that children read their school reading book. However if children want to read their own books from home then these can also be written in the reading record book but please ensure that the school book is read as well.

Dojos

We use dojos in school to recognise and celebrate success and good behaviour. It is a great way for your child's class teacher to keep you informed and for you to keep in touch with your child's teacher. Please sign up if you have not already done so.

Water

Research shows that children's learning is much better if they drink water throughout the day. Therefore, we would strongly encourage all children to bring a bottle of water to school each day. This needs to be a clear plastic bottle, labelled with your child's name.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place on Monday 4th October. This will be an opportunity for you to speak with your child's class teacher and find out how they have settled in to their new class as well as discussing your child's attainment and progress in school. Letters for this will be sent nearer the time.

Upcoming Diary Dates

20.09.19 - Y6 St. Mary's High School visit

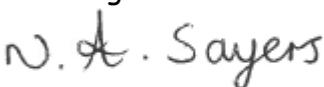
25.09.19 - Y6 European Language Experience

25.09.19 - Open Evening at Leyland St. Mary's Catholic High School (6pm)

27.09.18 - McMillan Coffee Morning and Book Café

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We look forward to working together this year and to having a very successful and happy year with your child. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to speak with you.

Kind regards



Mrs Sayers and the Key Stage 2 team.