



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Haig Avenue, Leyland. PR25 2QA

01772 422431

www.st-marys-leyland.lancs.sch.uk

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

5th February 2020

Spring Term

Dear Parent/Carer,

We can't believe we have been back at school for nearly 5 weeks already! We have had a wonderful start to the new term and it has been lovely having the children back in school. We are already very busy with lots of exciting things happening in school as well as lots of new learning. This letter will give you a few recaps about the organisation and day to day running of school as well as an overview of what we have planned for this term.

Class Organisation

Nursery - Mrs Leach and Mrs Bangi
Reception – Miss Eaves
Reception/Year 1 - Miss Francis
Year 1/2 - Mrs Adlington
Year 1/2 - Miss Langan
Year 3 – Miss Moriarty
Year 3/4 – Miss Lancaster
Year 4 – Mrs Hunter
Year 5 – Mr Raby
Year 5/6 – Miss Hindle
Year 6 – Mrs Pinson and Mrs McDonald

The Curriculum (Spring Term)

RE

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

The themes for this term are:

Local Church – Community
Eucharist – Relating
Lent/Easter – Giving

Values

Each month the children focus on a key value, with a certificate awarded each week to a child showing how they apply this value every day in school.

The values for this term are as follows:

January – Happiness

February – Patience

March – Unity

April - Honesty

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 1/2: - **London**

Year 3/4: – **Dublin**

Year 5/6: - **Edinburgh** (The children have already experienced a trip to Edinburgh which was thoroughly enjoyed by both children and staff!)

If you or anyone you know have any particular links to the above cities and are willing to come into school, this would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the school office if you have any contacts.

In addition to this, we also have Science Week and Book Week this term including World Book Day. 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/black 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 with your child's name.

Clubs

The following clubs are taking place this term:

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

Non-contact boxing (South Ribble Coaches)

Faith in Action (Y6 only) – Wednesday lunchtime (Miss Lancaster)

Zumba - Thursday after school (Mrs Hodges)

Eco Club – (Mrs Hunter)

Mary's Missionaries – (Miss Lancaster)

Letters for each club with further details to follow.

School Council

We are very excited to have elected our first School Council members. The following children in Key Stage 2 have been elected and we wish them well in their new roles.

St Anne – Louise and Eliza

St Theresa – Ellie and Scarlet

St Paul – Alfie and Kaja

St Christopher – Gracie and Karel

St Bernadette – Lacie-Ann and Declan

St Benedict – Macy and Ewan

Homework topic grid

All children will receive a homework grid each term that links to the topic being covered. 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 Maths. 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 also 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 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.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. 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 S Adlington
Assistant Head