



Autumn Term – Second Half

04.11.24 – 20.12.24

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Year 5 Curriculum Newsletter

**Teachers:** Miss Costanzo and Mrs. Woods

**TA:** Mrs. Cullen and Mrs. Flannery

### Our Mission Statement

We would like to be recognised by the quality and depth of respect and love, which we show towards each other. Mutual respect and tolerance are central to our way of life at St. Mary's as we meet Jesus Christ in each other.

We've enjoyed a great start to the year with our focus on The Victorians and exploring the story of *The Arrival by Shaun Tan*. We have been especially impressed with how engaged the children have been and they have all produced some superb pieces of creative work since starting Year 5 in September. Additionally, the still life sketches created in Art this term have been absolutely superb and we have been blown away by their dedication to developing their skills.

So far, we have all enjoyed visiting Beckenham Place Park for Forest School and look forward to our school trip taking a boat ride down the Thames after half term. In our Music lessons, we will also be working hard to learn a selection of songs in preparation for *Young Voices*, ready for our performance at the O2 in January.

We look forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evening.

### Dates for the diary:

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November:** School resumes for pupils

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November:** Forest School at Beckenham Place Park (AM – 5EW, PM – 5AC) **and** Individual Pupil Photographs

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** Home clothes day (Elfridges)

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November:** Parent's Evening

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November:** Parents' Evening

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November:** Home clothes day (Staff bottle stall)

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November:** Thames Explorer Trip – Geography

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** Christmas fair

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** KS2 Carol Service (7:00pm) at St. Edmund's Church

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** Elfridges Day **and** Christmas Jumper Day – CAFOD

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Dinner Day

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** End of Term Mass **and** School Closes for Christmas Holiday (2:00pm)



## English

We will begin the next half-term focusing on the books *Oranges in No Man's Land* by Elizabeth Laird and *Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen. The children will produce a variety of fiction and non-fiction pieces of writing using these texts as a stimulus.

**Reading:** Regular comprehension exercises will continue to develop children's reading fluency and their understanding and appreciation of what they read. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of children reading at home from a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction. Children who read widely have many more ideas and much more varied vocabulary to use in their writing.

**Spellings:** To help the children in their writing, there will be weekly spelling tests. Spellings will be given out on Friday to be tested the following Friday.

**Handwriting:** Children will continue to develop their handwriting skills by following the Kingston Cursive Handwriting Programme.

**Grammar:** Grammar will be embedded throughout all lessons across the range of subjects within our curriculum. If, as part of our weekly teaching, a specific area of grammar or punctuation needs to be focused upon as a class then this may be addressed in an individual session, if appropriate.

**Non – Fiction Text:** War poetry and historical sources such as letters, diaries and newspaper articles.

**Fiction and Creative Writing:** We are continuing to study *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan and about the themes and world issues that this narrative presents.

**Homework:** will be issued every week on a Thursday and will be expected to be back in school on the following Monday. We do have high expectations of the quality, quantity and presentation of all work and this extends to the work completed by children outside of school. It would be appreciated if you were able to please check your child's work when completed in order to ensure that they are maintaining the high standard of presentation and content that we know they are capable of in class each day.



## Mathematics

During our maths lessons, we will continue to reinforce children's understanding of the number system and the skills of written and mental calculations.

**Number:** Children will continue to further their understanding of the number system including place value to 1,000,000 and to 3 decimal places. We will be continuing to develop formal written calculations using a range of different strategies. We will also be learning Roman numeral notation.

**Statistics:** We will revise collating and sorting data, the use of frequency tables, tally systems, interpreting and representing data in a range of forms.

**Geometry:** We will revise and continue to develop understanding of measure including the measurement of time, angles, direction, length, weight and capacity.

**Additive, multiplicative and geometric reasoning:** Children will continue to develop their skills of selecting the appropriate mathematical skill and knowledge to solve every day, multi-step word problems and this discipline threads through all areas of the curriculum.

**Help at home:** The children now need to know their times tables up to 12 x 12. In addition, we often find that children can struggle to tell the time on an analogue clock and to relate it to times shown in digital form. If you are able to help at home with these two important topics, this will be much appreciated.

**Homework:** Maths Homework will continue to be set on Thursday and is expected back in school the following Monday. We do have high expectations of the quality, quantity and presentation of all work and this extends to the work completed by children outside of school. It would be appreciated if you were able to please check your child's work when completed in order to ensure that they are maintaining the high standard of presentation and content that we know they are capable of in class each day.



## Religious Education

Our RE topic for this half-term is *God's Covenants*. The children will be studying God's covenant with Noah, Abraham and Moses, and how the Ten Commandments inform the decisions and actions taken by believers in them. They will learn how God sent prophets to convey His message. As we approach the season of Advent, we will move on to God's new covenant with us and learn what the Incarnation means for us today.



## Science

We will be continuing with the topic of *Properties and changes of materials*. We will be making links to Geography and Maths, by exploring the molecular structure of solids, liquids and gases and conducting a number of experiments into separating mixtures of materials.

During this second half of the unit of work, children will:

- Understanding the properties of magnetic materials.
- Describe different ways to separate mixtures.
- Investigating materials which are either insulating or permeable.

During the year, there will be a big focus on investigative work, providing the children with opportunities to plan comparative and fair tests, collect accurate results and decide the best way to present their findings.

## Other Curriculum Areas

**PE:** The children will continue to have PE with Mr. Verga on Wednesday. After half-term, Monday PE sessions will resume in the afternoons apart from the week where we have Forest School.

**Geography:** We will begin looking at the formation of rivers and how land use has changed around the River Thames over time. During this half term, we have booked in to visit the River Thames and do practical work looking into its formation and how its location has impacted upon the surrounding landscape.

**Design and Technology:** This half-term's DT focus will be on food tech and we will be undertaking a project revolving around healthy eating; this will incorporate planning, designing, making and then evaluating what we have created.

**French:** This half-term's topic: *En route pour l'école* – on our way to school. We will learn how to recite the alphabet in French, learn to find shops and facilities in town, and end with French Christmas traditions.

**Computing:** We will be developing our computing skills through using Purple Mash. The theme of E-safety will be continuously threaded throughout all computing lessons to ensure that the children are aware of how this feeds into their everyday lives.

### **And Finally...**

**Uniform and Equipment:** Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled (especially as we transition to winter uniform) and the children come to school with all of the equipment that they require. We have noticed many children do not have the items needed, in particular handwriting pens, whiteboard pens, glue sticks and 30cm rulers. The full St. Mary's PE kit, including socks, is vital and should be in school each day; it is also important for all children to have a plain black or navy tracksuit in school ready for the colder weather.

If your child is chosen for a school team and borrows a school kit, please ensure your child returns the washed kit within two days.

**KS2 Carol Concert:** Please support your child in learning the words for our year group's Christmas Carols as we will back at St. Edmund's this year. In addition, the children need to continue to learn the words for the Young Voices concert in January.

We hope that you have found this information useful and as always welcome your feedback!

Thank you,

The Year 5 Team