

Autumn
2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Curriculum Newsletter



Reception

Mrs Rushton's Class

The first term at school is always a very exciting term! The children have settled in well and are getting used to the routines of the school day. This term we will be learning about the topic of 'All about me'. We will be learning about ourselves and our families, where we live and what our interests are.



We will be looking at how we have changed since we were babies, what we could do then and what we can do now. If possible, please could you send a baby photo of your child into school. This will be returned to you at the end of the topic.

We will soon be starting our phonics lessons which are lots of fun! Fred the frog will be helping the children to learn the letter sounds. They will then learn to blend the sounds together to begin to read words.

We will also be learning about the season of Autumn and spending lots of time learning outside. We love to learn outside, but our grass area is often wet. If you haven't already done so, could you please send your child with a named pair of wellies that can be kept on our welly rack at school.

It would also be helpful to keep a plastic carrier bag and a spare set of clothes, including underwear and socks or tights, in your child's bag just in case their clothes get wet at school.

After half-term we will be learning about the topic of Superheroes, as this seems to be a particular interest of many of the children! The children will be using their superhero powers to undertake lots of special superhero challenges linked to our areas of learning!

We will be having PE lessons on a Tuesday and a Friday with our sports coach, Mr Graham. We do not get changed for PE but children will be taking off their jumpers or cardigans. Please ensure that everything is labelled with your child's name as it can be very tricky to sort out otherwise! Throughout the week, we will also take part in various physical development activities outside. These may include balancing activities, obstacle courses, ball games and much more.

In the next couple of weeks, children will be given reading diaries and reading books to practise at home. At the moment, these may be conversation books without words, or books with first words or repeated phrases. Please could you write in the reading diary when you have heard your child read at home. It doesn't need to be a lengthy comment. Can your child tell a story about what is happening / talk about the characters and what they may be saying or thinking?

Every time your child has read three times at home, they will be entered into the reading raffle which is drawn every Friday in class.

We use Dojo points in Reception. This is a point system where the children can earn points for good behaviour, work and effort in all areas. Children receive two dojo points each time they read at home. Once children reach 50 points they receive a prize.

We look forward to a fantastic first term at school!

Class 1

Mrs Evans and Miss Edwards' Class



We have a very exciting half term ahead of us in Year One! The children will continue to do reading and phonics daily, it is vital in our curriculum. I encourage you to read as often as

possible at home with your child and to ensure they have their reading diary in school each day. Children will keep track of how often they are reading using our Reading Road display. If your child reads 5 times a week, they will receive a special certificate from Mrs Griffiths and a prize from our class prize box.

This half term our topic is Ships and Sailing. In Science the children will be able to distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. The children will be able to identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water and rock, then describe simple properties of a variety of everyday materials. The children will then use this knowledge to design and make their own boat in D&T. In History, we will be learning all about

Thomas Telford and his links to the Ironbridge, canals and design! Our Geography this half term is all about drains and canals. The children

will make small world model canals and take part in Fatberg Fighters, where they will learn how to protect their environment and sewer systems. The children will present their findings to another class to encourage them to become more eco-friendly. We are really excited to bring our topic alive with a trip to Seven Valley Country Park, where the children will test out their boats out on the water in our science experiment, enjoy a pond dipping session and go on an adventure on a play ship. We also have many exciting activities planned in our Outdoor Learning; this includes cooking apples that we collect from our school tree to make apple turnover.

In Mathematics we are going to be working very hard on counting to and across 100, forwards and backwards beginning with 0 or any given number. Please practise counting as much as you can at home with your child. We are working with numbers to 100 this year. The children will become very familiar with the 100 square and notice patterns within it. We will also be working hard on place value this half term where the children will identify, represent and compare numbers using objects and pictorial representations, including the number line, and the use of language, equal to, more than, less than, most and least.


The children will also be working on addition. There will be a bit push on independent working this half term, giving the children confidence to complete their work to a high standard independently after an input. The children will read, write and interpret mathematical equations involving addition (+) and equals (=) signs. We will be solving one step problems that involve the use of addition, using apparatus, pictorial representation and missing number problems.



In English, the children will continue to develop a pleasure in reading, motivation to read and understanding of vocabulary. We will listen to a wide range of poems, stories – fiction and non-fiction and encourage to the children to link what they hear to their own experiences and recognise and join in with predictable phrases. The children are becoming very familiar with key stories, fairy tales and traditional tales such as The Three Little Pigs and Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children are taking a big step this year and learning how to write in cursive. They will be using the stuck mat, stuck line, Speed Sounds chat and the writing checklist to support their writing. The children will be writing short sentences to form short narratives, using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop. They will move on to more descriptive writing, using adjectives to describe

feelings, size and colour. The children will also learn about conjunctions (and, because) to join words and two ideas in a sentence together. I am very passionate about this stage in their writing journey, and I can't wait to see the children flourish over the coming months. This is a particularly enjoyable transition for the children as they become 'grown up' writers.

You may have heard your children talking about of DoJo points, it is a point system where the children can earn points for good behaviour, work and effort in all areas. They will also be earning table points for their team.

Writing Check list A 	
Think it	
Say it	
FRED it	
Write it	
Read it	
CAPITAL letters	
Finger spaces	
<u>On the line</u>	
Formed well	
. full stops	
?	
!	
and	
because	
I	
Spelling	

We have a lot of hard work ahead of us this term but with your help and your children's enthusiasm, I am sure it will be a successful one.

Miss Edwards / Mrs Evans

Class 2

Mrs Brazier's Class



This term Class 2's topic is India. We will be learning about continents and where India is located as well as the ways in which the physical and human features of India compared to where we live. The children will also be piecing together

maps of the U.K. including naming and locating the four countries and capital cities. We will be learning about Indian culture and traditions as well as stories.

In addition to this we will also be learning about Mother Teresa and her life including her work in India. We will



be making Indian food too. In science this term we will be looking at materials. The children will be organising natural and man-made materials and looking closely at key scientists who are famous for their discoveries and inventions with materials. We also have lots of exciting investigations to complete.

We will be doing lots of outdoor learning over the autumn term, such as identifying trees and plants and exploring habitats - look out for Outdoor Learning slips as children will need their wellies and coats on these days.

Writing Check Unit B
Full stops
Commas
Exclamation marks
Question marks
Hyphens
Spelling
Types of sentences
Statements
Commands
Questions
Exclamations
Check your spelling!

We have a range of different types of writing to explore this term including stories, letters, diaries, and instructions. Our first focus will be on saying and writing accurate sentences which are punctuated correctly. Our Writing will be based on fantastic texts that we read together as a class. The children will also learn about the variety of year 2 spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary which they will be using within their own writing.



Whole class reading takes place daily with children having focused tasks relating to a piece of text which will be re-visited each day over the course of a week. During the week children are immersed in the text, having multiple opportunities to read as well as answer questions. This helps to build their familiarity and confidence in reading and develop appropriate strategies for decoding words. Please read with your child at home each day and ensure that home reading diaries are signed and returned to school daily.

In Mathematics the children will have lots of practical opportunities to partition, recombine and compare and order two-digit numbers. We will then focus on all four operations that link into the wider curriculum and the children will be engaging in lots of problem solving too.

Children will have P.E. lessons twice a week. In this time they will participate in a range of activities to develop their existing knowledge and skills. They will build on their

teamwork and cooperation too. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear for P.E.

The children have made a fantastic start to Year 2 and we are all looking forward to the exciting term ahead!

Class 3

Mrs Woods' Class

We have an incredibly exciting term ahead of us with lots of fun and interesting things to learn about.



We start the year with 'The Victorians' topic in which we will be learning all about Queen Victoria and the life and times of the people who lived during her reign. We will be finding out about significant changes in science and industry which took place over the Victorian period. We have a wide range of learning experiences planned across the term, in which children will be emerged in experiential learning about the Victorian way of life.

Our first Science topic in Year 3 is Healthy Eating. The children will be learning about different food groups and the nutrients that they contain and in doing so will develop a good understanding about why having a healthy diet is so important. Making bread as part of our DT lessons, will support this as we will be looking at a range of ingredients and

the nutrients which they provide. We will also be making comparisons between what we eat now and what The Victorians ate.



After half term our Science topic is Light and Shadows, where we will be finding out about how shadows are formed and how they can change in shape and size. We will be making good use of peg dolls (to be made in DT) by using them as shadow puppets to investigate shadow formation. The children will be able to ask scientific questions and they will begin to make conclusions using the results of their investigations.

We have a wide range of different types of writing to explore this term including stories, letters, diaries and non-chronological reports. Our Writing will centre around our main texts which are 'Daisy Saves the Day' and 'Oliver Twist,' both of which have links to our Victorian topic. The children will learn about the structure of different text types and the variety of year 3 spelling, punctuation and vocabulary which they will be using to enhance their own writing.

Whole class reading takes place daily with children having focused tasks relating to a piece of text. During the week children are immersed in the text and have multiple opportunities to answer a range of questions. This helps to build their familiarity and confidence.

In Mathematics, we have started the term by focusing on place value and will continue to do so as the term progresses. We will then be building on using formal methods in each of the calculations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division – ensuring that the correct vocabulary is used and understood. Throughout their learning in Mathematics, children will have opportunities to use the knowledge and skills they are developing, to engage in reasoning and problem solving. They will also continue to develop their recall of times tables facts, which they should continue to practise at home.

We are really excited to start learning Spanish this half term. We will be finding out ways to greet each other and how to ask questions.



PE will be delivered on Wednesdays and Fridays with children continuing to take part in a range of activities to develop their knowledge and skills. They will build on their existing ability to work as a team, showing excellent cooperation skills. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear for P.E.

We have a busy and exciting term ahead of us with lots of fantastic learning to look forward to. The children have started the new school year with excellent attitudes towards their learning, already showing interest and excitement for the topics we have in store.

Year 4

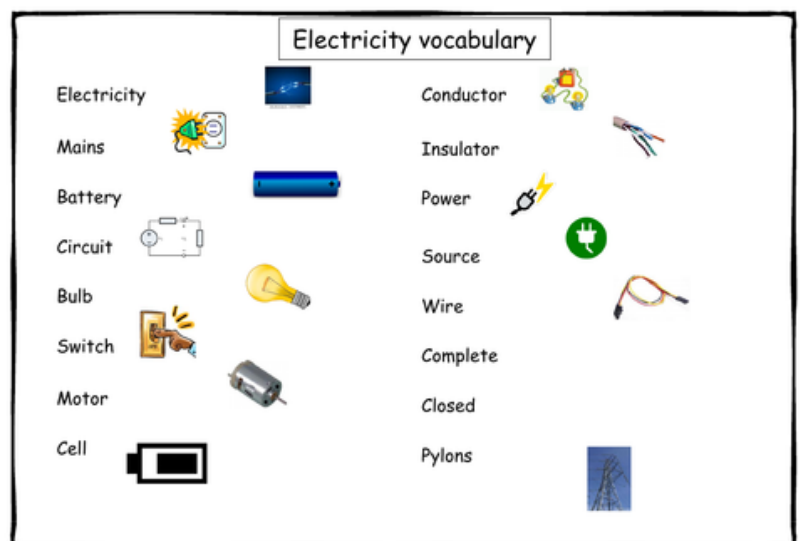
Mr Freeman

Class 4's topic, this term, is 'Rotten Romans'. During this term children will learn about ancient Rome and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. There will be lots of opportunities to research and discuss the Roman Empire, including; Roman lifestyles, clothing, Roman soldiers and the British invasion. During the term we will also research the life of a gladiator: what they did and why; what weapons they used and where gladiator fights took place.



In geography, we will research where Italy is and what it is like, with

an expectation that children will then be able to locate Italy on world and European maps as well as identifying Rome and other major cities. We will also discuss geographical features such as its size, population, mountains, and rivers identifying the main tourist attractions. We will use any information gathered to compare similarities and differences between



Italy and Britain. We will also be looking at the roads made by the Roman soldiers and where they were built. The children will then have an opportunity to make their own road/path on the school grounds.

During our writing, we will learn about the legend of Romulus and Remus, creating our own Roman inspired plays and stories. We will also be writing explanation texts and information texts as well as letters using Roman artefacts, people and places. We will be creating our own non-fiction texts.

In mathematics, we will be focusing on place value, looking at partitioning and recombining four-digit numbers. We will be researching roman numerals and their legacy in today's society. Children will learn to convert between units of measures and multiply and divide by 10's, 100's and 1000's including decimals.

Our science topic this term is electricity, we will be looking at keeping ourselves safe around electrical items inside and outside of the home. We will be learning to make electrical circuits including different variables such as a buzzer or switch, as well as using symbols to represent the components. We will research famous scientists associated with electricity and understand some of the major discoveries to do with electricity.

Guided reading will happen every day and will consist of a weekly task. During this time there will be an opportunity for whole class readings texts, sequencing stories and events and

identifying features of fictional and non-fiction texts. The children will receive a weekly slip to explain the text and tasks that they have completed during the week.

Our PE sessions are Monday and Wednesday, as the weather gets colder, please ensure your child has the correct clothing. The children have an exciting term to look forward to!

Year 5/6

Miss Carver and Mrs Lambie's Class

What a fantastic return! We have made such a stunning start to this term, the children are full of resilience and have worked extremely hard already, we have already been very impressed. It looks like we will have a wonderful year ahead.

This term our main topic is based all around the human body. The children will be learning about how we see and hear, how the heart works, the circulatory system and our digestive system and the human life cycle. Later in this half term the



children will be investigating the structure and function of the heart by dissecting a sheep heart, which we are already very excited about!

Our science lessons will be the basis of lots of our writing lessons as we interlink the two areas of the curriculum. Writing will also include taking notes, writing explanation text, persuasive texts, stories and poems.

In PE we will be looking at the effect of exercise on our heart and lungs and how we can improve our fitness. We will be recording and analysing this in our maths. Both Year 5/6 classes have P.E on a Tuesday and Thursday in the afternoon.

Computing this term will include developing coding skills and learning how to manipulate spreadsheets. Very excitingly we will be learning Spanish this year both the language and learning about the culture and developing our links with a Spanish school.

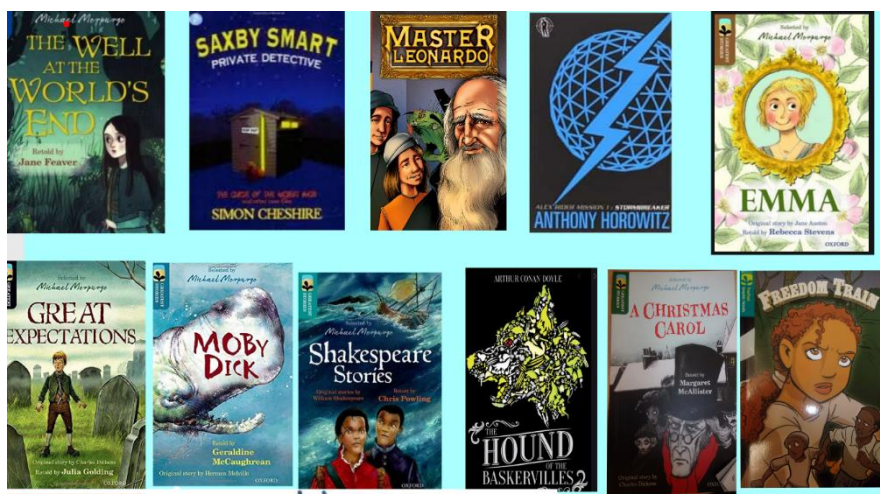
We have launched our own 'Autumn Bookfest' for this term. Each child will get the opportunity to read a range of books. Once they have read the book, they will be given a set of questions on it to make sure they have understood the text. The more reading your child does, the better they will become in lots of areas of reading. For each book the children read we get to put a spine on the wall- we are hoping to get to the ceiling by Christmas! Who will be the class with the most spines by the end of the term?

Here is a sample of some of the books each class will be reading this Term.

BOOKFEST in 5/6 A (Miss Carver's Class)



BOOKFEST in 5/6 B (Mrs Lambie's Class)



In the reading we do in school we will be developing both speed and stamina, which is why it so important that they are reading regularly at home and for extended periods. It is vital that children are reading at least 15 minutes a day, explaining what they have read in a synopsis (Summary). A key focus this year will be to develop greater inference skills. We will be going on a trip to the



Birmingham Art Gallery to study the human form which links with both our science topic and our artwork. Our artwork will involve drawing the human form, movement and the artist involved in pointillism and surrealism. We will be investigating the human heart and dissecting a sheep's heart and investigating the digestive system with a delicious/disgusting investigation.

In Mathematics this term we will be covering many topics, building on children's knowledge and mastery of the formal written methods in all four operations, shapes and their properties, angles, fractions, decimals and percentages and some work on statistics and data. The children will be developing their reasoning skills and regularly practice SAT type questions. Knowing all times tables to 12×12 and corresponding facts is an absolute essential skill that must be mastered, and a key focus for work at home. It is very exciting to start a new term and we look forward to working hard and making some great progress together this term.

We will be having an experiential day outside in October where we will be exploring all things related to the human body and the effect of different things on it, cooking, relaxing, exercise, exploring, dancing and so on...watch this space, we are looking forward to finding out more. Alongside of this we have lots of interesting experiences planned. Next term we will be going to the National Space Centre ... watch this space!