

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Spring Term 2023

### Curriculum Newsletter

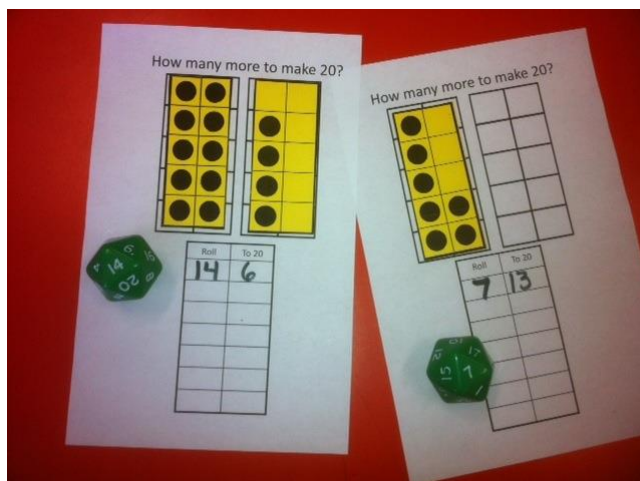




play area is going to be a Dinosaur explorer café, where we will be writing menus, food orders and feeding hungry dinosaur explorers! We will be exploring dinosaur science-based activities such as making salt-dough fossils, dinosaur gloop and even a volcano! We will also learn about the famous paleontologist Mary Anning. In Maths, we will be using dinosaurs to help us learn about doubling, halving and sharing.

### Year 1: Mrs Evans

We have a very exciting half term ahead of us in year one! The children will continue to take part in daily reading / phonics lessons, it is absolutely vital in our curriculum. I encourage you to read as often as possible at home with your children and to ensure they have their reading diary in school each day. Children who have read five times a week will be entered into the Reading Raffle with the chance to win a prize from our class prize box. The more times you read the more raffle tickets you get!



In mathematics we are going to be counting forwards and backwards within 100. The children will become very familiar with the 100 square and notice patterns within it. We have also been working hard on our mental mathematics by solving addition and subtraction equations in our heads, the children enjoy 'number story of 7', this is where we

think of all the equations we can where the answer is 7. Each day we play it for a different number. The children have also been working on addition and subtraction within 20. The children enjoyed learning their number bonds to 10 and the related subtraction facts. We have used a range of apparatus, drawings, real life examples and songs to support our understanding of addition and subtraction. You can find a range of songs and free games online. We will soon be moving on to place value within 50. The children will represent numbers to 50, using a range of apparatus, such as Numicon and Dienes.

In our writing lessons, we will be exploring different genres of writing. We have been focusing on narrative, with stories such as Sammy the Street Dog and Vlad and the Great Fire of London. The children will recognise main characters and typical characteristics. We also have been discussing beginning, middle and end.

Story writing is supported by story boxes. The children are working on their stamina to write more than a sentence. Our confidence is growing in our independent writing, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in our sentences. The children enjoy self-assessing their own work using highlighting. We have been editing our writing, and working at doing this independently. For example, number and letter reversals or 'red' words that have been spelt incorrectly.



In History we will be learning about the Great Fire of London where the children will make a timeline of events and in Geography the children will be learning about the UK and its four capital cities. We are making links with London. In Art, the children have been learning all about Kandinsky. They have created their own piece of artwork to represent the Great Fire of London,

in the style of Kandinsky. Working in an abstract style is something the children will find interesting.

In the second part of the Spring Term our topic changes to Growing and beans. We will be busy planting seeds in the school garden and hopefully going to visit a vegetable patch locally where we can compare gardening skills. This is also linked to science so we will be doing a few investigations linked to growing.

Our writing of course will include the favourite fairy tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk' Also we will be writing diary entries as we watch our plants grow.


There will be an opportunity to cook something using some produce from the garden especially salad crops as well as something tasty using our strawberries and raspberries in the summer term. The compost bin is getting fuller but as it heats up and reduces, we need even more green leaves, vegetable peelings, twigs and finely torn newspaper.

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

## Year 2: Mrs Brazier

This term Class 2's topic is World War 2. We will be making Anderson shelters, using our natural environment to make these. We will also be doing lots of outdoor learning including lashing and frapping which will help us build our shelters. We will be looking at the significant events of World War 2 (such as rationing, the Blitz and D-Day) and imagining the lives of evacuees and children at this time. We will also be making Trench Soup using food that was available in 1940's Britain. The children will also be learning about different countries involved in World War 2.



Writing Check list B 
CAPITAL letters
Full stops .
?
Commas in a list , and
Apostrophe for possession The dog's ball
Subordinating conjunction When if that because
Coordinating conjunction Or And but
Extended noun phrase red flower
Tense Past present
Paragraphs
Vocabulary choice
Types of sentences Statement Command Question Exclamation
Check your spelling!

In Writing the children will focus first on writing instructions, diary entries, Newspaper reports and poetry linking to World War 2. In the second half of the term, we will be looking at fairy stories and non-fiction texts that are structured in different ways. The children will write detailed descriptions of both characters and settings and will write using a range of genres, such as, letter writing, story writing, play scripts and instructional writing.

Reading will happen every day and will consist of a range of weekly tasks. During this time there will be an opportunity for whole class reading, group tasks and sequencing stories and events. Please read with your child as often as possible, at least 3 times per week – this can be their home reading book, comics, magazines, game covers – it all counts towards their daily reading.

In Mathematics the children will have lots of practical opportunities to partition, recombine and to 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. We will be learning about fractions of shapes, sets of objects and quantities and representing these in different ways.



In science this term we will be looking at 'Animals Including Humans'. The children will be learning about the lifecycles of different animals and what they need to be healthy. They will also be engaging in different investigations relating to health.



We have so many fantastic opportunities planned and are looking forward to the exciting term ahead!

### **Class Three: Mrs Woods**

We have a fun and busy term ahead. For the first half of the term our topic in both History and Geography is the Stone Age in which we will focus on people and settlements. We will then be moving on to learn about the Bronze Age and the Iron Age finding out how people lived, where they settled and the tools they used. We will also be having lots of fun during outdoor learning sessions in which we will do a range of activities such as making shelters, orienteering, and even doing some cave-style painting!

As part of our Rock of Ages topic, in Science, we will be looking at the different types of rocks (igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary) and how they are formed. We will take part in practical investigations to explore the properties of different rocks and their



uses. After half term, our topic is Magnets. We will use investigations to compare, group together and identify a variety of everyday materials depending on if they are magnetic. In addition to this, we will also explore magnetic fields and forces.

For Reading, we will be looking at 'Stig of the Dump' which is also our class reading book. Whole class reading continues to take 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 Writing, we have been working on adding further detail to our writing, extending sentences by using interesting adjectives. We will also be building on our use of subordinating conjunctions, subordinate clauses and coordinating conjunctions in our writing. We have a wide variety of text types to look at over the term including non-chronological reports, instructions, recounts, persuasive letters, diaries and newspaper reports.

In Mathematics this term, we are looking at fractions, including unit and non-unit fractions, the four number operations, money, measurement and angles. Throughout their learning in Mathematics, children will have opportunities to build their vocabulary and use the knowledge and skills they are developing, to engage in reasoning and problem solving. We are also working hard to master our 10, 2, 5, 3 and 4 times tables so practise these as often as you can. Log in to



Purple Mash to find a range of resources and activities to support times tables recall.

This term our P.E days are usually Monday and Wednesday so please ensure children come to school in suitable shoes for sporting activities.

We will have lots of opportunities to learn outdoors this term, especially as the weather begins to get warmer, so please keep a look out for outdoor learning letters as children will need to bring in wellies for these days.

The children are already showing a lot of enthusiasm for our new topics and we are all looking forward to getting stuck in and finding out more about them as the term progresses.

#### **Class Four: Mr Freeman**

Our topic this term is 'The Egyptians'. We will be exploring the different Egyptian gods and goddesses as well as what the ancient Egyptians built and created. We will be looking at the discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb by focusing on the archaeologist Howard Carter by writing a diary entry and a newspaper report to discuss and research Howard Carter's discovery and actions.

We will be linking our topic to our writing lessons to create explanation texts on how to mummify a body and we will be looking at the



mummification process by mummifying some fruit! We will also be creating our own sarcophagus and Egyptian jewellery and creating and researching canopic jars.

As well as our instructional writing, we will be writing biographies about Tutankhamun, Cleopatra and other historical figures. We are continuing to use the school's editing key to help edit and improve our own work and will continue to build on this skill. Grammar is an important aspect of our writing too; we will be focusing on prefixes and suffixes in our spellings. As well as looking at prefixes and suffixes we will be looking at apostrophes both for possession and contractions and the use of the determiner 'a' or 'an'.

In Geography, we will create a non-fiction text about the Northern and Southern Hemisphere. We



will use atlases to find examples of countries in both hemispheres and even countries that belonged in both. We will then look at labelling the different parts and features of mountains and then locate well known mountains from around the world.

Guided Reading happens every day and there is a whole class focused text. We then work on follow up tasks which involves questions about our book/text during the week. Reading comprehensions are a big part of our guided reading sessions, making sure the children are developing their inference and deduction skills. Please try to hear your child read as often as you can, signing and adding comments is encouraged and the children can write these comments themselves. We ask that reading diaries are in school every day.

In Mathematics, we will be looking at the perimeter of 2D shapes by measuring and drawing our own rectilinear shapes. We will then use these knowledge and skills to design a garden for the outdoor area. We will also look at fractions, decimals, and measurement. The aim by the end of Year 4 is to be confident with all times tables up to 12 and we are currently practising these regularly in school.

Outdoor learning will focus on scavenger hunts and outdoor games this term. Please ensure that children have an outdoor pair of shoes and appropriate clothing as outdoor learning will take place on a Friday. The children have a very exciting term to look forward to!



## **Classes Five/Six: Mrs Lambie and Miss Carver's**

This term our topic is based around Space and science. We will be answering questions about how the Solar System works, how day and night occur, why we have seasons and what the milestones of human discovery into space have been. We will be keeping up to date with the latest



advances in space travel, looking at Elon Musk, the James Webb Telescope and the latest advances in Britain's attempt to put things in space. Not to mention our very exciting visit to the National Space Centre later this term. It is going to be a very thrilling and hard-working, term for us!

In our PSHE we have been investigating British values and looking at protective characteristics. We will be looking particularly at Martin Luther King Jr. and the part we have to play in making our world a better place.

Year 6 will be getting ready for the up-and-coming SATs, which will be in May. (more information to follow for the year 6 parents). Alongside the basic skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar, in their writing children will be focusing on three main areas: writing a variety of non-fiction reports, writing suspense stories set in space and finally analysing and writing their own poetry. One of the poems we will be studying this term will be the Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll. Our artwork will be linked to the Jabberwocky from Alice in Wonderland and from this text we will be creating our own imaginary creature with Modroc and wire.



We have already started on our spring term Bookfest books. There are lots of new titles to get stuck into. We have set ourselves a challenge this term that when we read (at least 3 times in a week), we are going to try to increase the pace and quantity of our reading and understanding, so our class challenge is to see how much we can read in 15 minutes and then how many of the key points we can recall. These are then to be recorded in reading diaries. Your support with this is very much appreciated-we cannot stress

how important this is!

In our maths work we will be covering all the usual arithmetic and work with the 4 operations as well as developing our reasoning skills. We will be working on answering increasingly difficult multi-step questions. We are having a big focus this term on learning and recalling our times tables. So watch out for the practice questions and quick fire tables tests that will be coming home in your child's homework along with some exciting projects to work on. We will be continuing our outdoor learning and working on our Spanish. We are in the processes of writing recipes to share with our Spanish pen pals.

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.