



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Griffiths, Samantha

## 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.

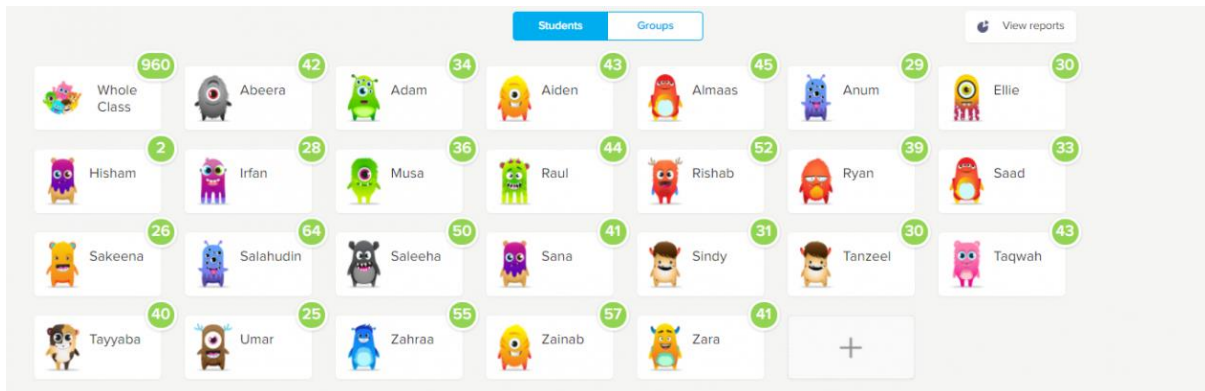
After half-term we will be learning about the topic of Superheroes. We will learn about the important work of real-life superheroes such as doctors, firefighters and police. The children will be using their superhero powers to undertake lots of special superhero challenges linked to our areas of learning!

We will be having PE lessons on a Tuesday and a Thursday 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 your child has appropriate footwear for PE and 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. 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?

As we begin teaching phonics, we will also be sending home sound sheets in your child's diary to practise and a weekly poem to practise saying together at home too. Every time your child has read (or practised their sounds or poem) four 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. Example...



We look forward to a fantastic first term at school!

## Year 1

### Mrs Lambie's Class

We have made a great start to year one. The children have been very keen to get started and it is great that all children are making every effort to be on time, raring to go.

We will have a big focus on phonics this year and applying this to our reading and writing. Phonics are the key to great reading, and we spend a great deal of time mastering our sounds so we can go from strength-to-strength! It is really important that children are reading at home at least four times a week as this will support their learning in school tremendously. Reading is everything and good reading will help your child to be successful across the curriculum.





In maths we will continue to work on our number bonds to 10 and using ten frames and number lines to support our addition and subtraction. We will also spend a great deal of time counting forward and backwards. It is key the children in Year 1 are thoroughly familiar with numbers up to 100 and their relationship with each other. They also need to further develop an understanding of quantity. Any counting at home would be most helpful. Also guessing/estimating the amount of items in a packet or box and then counting them together would be really helpful too.

Towards the end of term, we will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes, and begin to use a ruler to measure in cm. Please support this learning by pointing out different shapes in the children's lives and use a ruler at home to measure things together, for example, the length of their socks, the size of their dinner plate, the length of their crisp packet ETC.

We have an exciting new topic in our History and Geography this term as we look at changes in the high street over time. This term we are going to be studying Madeley and looking at how the high street and shopping has changed over time. We will be going a field trip down the high street itself, looking at the types of shops that are there and compare these to pictures from the past.

In history we will be taking a trip back in time to Blist Hill to explore the shops on a Victorian high street. Part of our study will be how paying for things has changed, from trading goods, to coins and paper money to digital payments.

In our ICT we will be starting with a unit learning how to use a PC, especially looking at digital painting.

We will continue to have outdoor learning, we will be shelter building, leaf rubbing, learning how to tie some different types of knots and cooking outdoors, learning how to be around a fire safely.

We look forward to a great term, where the children become more independent and confident, enjoying their learning and getting ready to celebrate Christmas!

## **Class 2**

### **Miss Brazier's Class**



This term Class 2's topic is Explorers. We will be learning about continents and oceans in geography and the journey taken around the world by Charles Darwin on The Beagle. The children will also be piecing together maps of the U.K. locating and identifying

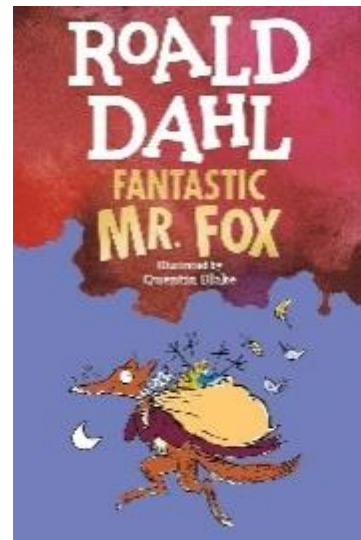
characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas. In science this term we will be looking at local habitats and then moving on to materials. The children will be finding out about living things that can be found in local habitats in the school grounds. They will then find out about materials by organising natural and man-made materials, thinking carefully about the suitability of materials for different objects. We will also be looking closely at key scientists who are famous for their discoveries and inventions with materials. We will be building on our understanding of scientific enquiry and have lots of exciting investigations to complete. In computing we will be finding out all about IT and its uses and after half term we will move on to learning about digital media through photography.

We will be taking part in outdoor learning opportunities every week 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 as the weather begins to change through autumn.



Writing Check list B
ONCE UPON A TIME
Talk shops
+
+
Commas in a list ... and
Anastrophe for personification The dog's bark
Subordinating conjunctions When if that because
Coordinating conjunctions On And but
Extended noun phrases red flower
Tenses Past present
Verbs
Vocabulary classes
Types of sentences Statement Command Question Exclamation Check your spelling!

This term we will be exploring narrative and instruction writing through a range of different fiction and non-fiction texts. Our first focus will be on saying and writing accurate sentences that are punctuated correctly. We will use fantastic texts that we will read together as a class to support our writing on character descriptions, setting descriptions and retelling. 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**

#### **Mr MorGan's 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 Stone Age to Iron Age' topic in which we will be learning all about



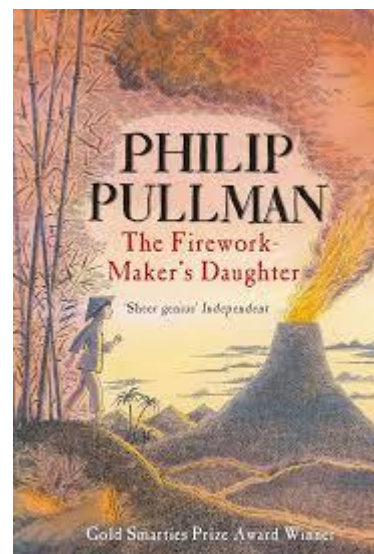
the changing lives and culture of the people living during these times. We will be finding out about rocks, soil and fossils in science and understanding the importance of land usage. We have a wide range of learning experiences planned across the term, in which children will be emerged in experiential learning about the Stone Age way of life.

We will also be carrying out investigations for finding out the properties of different soils, how rocks can be sorted and classified, and how fossils are formed.

In Art we will be looking at the work of Josef Albers and his work on shape. This will be followed by a sketching study based on the work of Michelangelo.

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 exploring 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 'Nim's Island' and 'The Firework Maker's Daughter.' 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 Tuesdays 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's Class

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.

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.

### Roman Numerals Chart

1	I	11	XI	200	CC
2	II	20	XX	300	CCC
3	III	30	XXX	400	CD
4	IV	40	XL	500	D
5	V	50	L	600	DC
6	VI	60	LX	700	DCC
7	VII	70	LXX	800	DCCC
8	VIII	80	LXXX	900	CM
9	IX	90	XC	1000	M
10	X	100	C	1001	MI



Our science topic this term is changes in state, we will be identifying the properties of solids and liquids and arranging different materials due to these properties. We will then look at changing states, measuring temperature and looking at the water cycle.

Guided reading will happen every day and will consist of a weekly task. Our class text is, 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' and 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 Wednesday and Thursday, 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

### Miss Carver'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, I have already been very impressed. It looks like we will have a wonderful year ahead.

This term our main topic is based all around Ancient Maya. Our History and Geography lessons will be based on this marvellous topic.



The Maya people are remembered for amazing creations, like their spectacular buildings and beautiful objects made from jade. They also invented groundbreaking ideas which have helped shape the way we live our lives today. For example, it's thought that the Maya invented the idea of 'zero'. The children will have opportunities to explore this ancient civilisation: where and when they lived, their culture, what they ate and what

they believed.

Fun fact: The Maya drank an ancient chocolate drink during rituals and used it as medicine. Centuries later, the Mayans praised chocolate as the drink of the gods. Mayan chocolate was a revered brew made of roasted and ground cacao seeds mixed with chilies, water and cornmeal. We will be going on a trip to Cadbury's world this term to learn all about this.

In computing this term, the children will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. Learners consider small-scale systems as well as large-scale systems. They explain the input, output, and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. They will discover how information is found on the World Wide Web, through learning how search engines work (including how they select and rank results) and what influences searching, and through comparing different search engines.



In our Spanish lessons we will be exploring conversation and family members. Focussing on both the language and learning about the culture and developing our conversational skills.

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.

#### Our Bookfest Books:

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.

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. Knowing all times tables to 12 x 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.

Year 5 have P.E on a Monday and Friday in the afternoon. Make sure that you are wearing the appropriate footwear on both days and on 'dress down Friday' please wear clothes suitable for P.E activities.



## Year 6

### Miss Bulkeley-Jones' Class



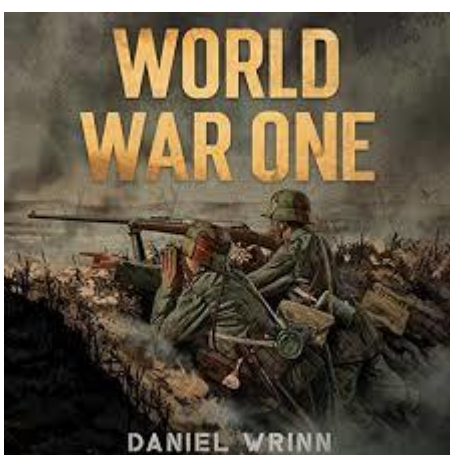
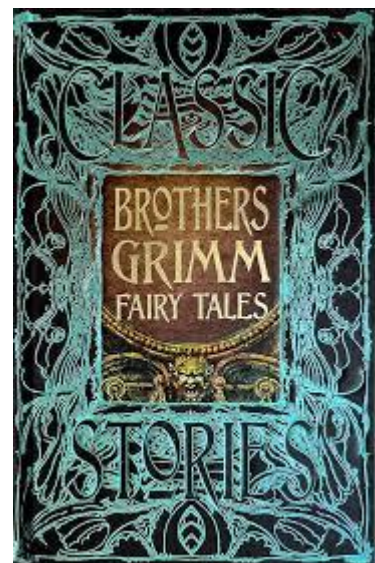
Our RE learning will explore the Kingdom of God and Justice. We will be building on our learning from previous years and applying our growing religious understanding. Looking at where the Kingdom of God is and the values associated.

Our writing focuses will begin with a traditional tale from the Brothers Grimm looking at how stories develop and the key techniques to

traditional tale writing. We will then be moving on to look at suspense stories, recounts, and instructional texts.

In Maths we will begin with place value before moving on to look at the four operations including cementing our knowledge of long multiplication and learning how to perform long division. We will also build on our knowledge of fractions and converting units.

Our reading journey has begun with exploring our Autumn Term bookfest books and our class poet, alongside learning a poem by heart. We will then be focusing on the fiction texts of War Horse and The Nowhere Emporium and our non-fiction offer will look at an information text about World War 1 and national archives resources for diaries written by soldiers during the war.



Within History our focus will be on World War 1 and begin to understand the causes of the war, the new developments that arose from the war and how country boundaries changed as a result of the war. In Geography we will be focusing on field working skills including looking at the 8 points of a compass, 6 figure grid references and the drawing of accurately measured maps.

Our science work begins by looking at the classification of living organisms and how taxonomy is used to help identify individual species. This will include the exploration of plants, animals, mould and branching keys including investigating our school grounds and the classification of species we find. We will then be moving on to look at evolution and inheritance understanding how

animals are adapted to live in certain environments and how traits are inherited from parents across the animal kingdom.



Our Art topics will focus on painting and drawing, exploring monochromatic colours (shades of colour), improving our drawing of human faces, exploring the impact of light sources on an object and single point perspective.

Our computing learning will look at collaborative learning and how people are able to work collaboratively without being together. We will then move on to website design and creation looking at what makes an effective website. Our online safety focuses will be on self-

image and identity and online relationships.

In DT we will be learning about nutritional information on food packaging and then moving on to creating our own burgers. We will try various different types of burger patty, buns and sauces before designing and making our own creations.

