

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Spring Term 2024 Curriculum Newsletter





Reception: Mrs Rushton's Class

We have a busy and exciting term ahead of us in Reception. This half-term our topic is 'Terrific Toys'. We will be finding out about what toys are made from and about how they work. We will be learning about old and new toys and looking at how the toys that we play with now are different to those played with by

our parents and grandparents. We are going to have a go at making toys from junk materials so any donations would be appreciated!

Our role-play area this half-term is a toy shop. We will be using our phonic knowledge to write signs, labels, and catalogues for the toy shop.

We will be inviting our teddy bears to come to school to have a teddy bears picnic with us! We will be linking our learning in Maths by making plates, hats and decorations for the picnic using repeating patterns. We will also be writing and following instructions for making jam sandwiches, which we will make to eat on our picnic!

We will also be learning about Chinese New Year. We will be making Chinese lanterns, dragons and writing Chinese letters. In Maths, we will be using chopsticks to estimate and count how many noodles we can pick up. We will also practice writing and ordering Chinese numerals. We will be learning about the great animal race and about the year of the dragon.

As we approach the season of Spring, we will be working outside on our garden area and planting flower and vegetable seeds. Children will need to bring a pair of wellies that can be kept in school all week and then taken home on a Friday.

Our PE days this term are Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure that your child is either wearing trainers or has a pair of trainers in their bag on these days.

In R.E. this term we will be following the topics 'Getting to know Jesus' and 'Sorrow and Joy', where we will be learning about the seasons of Lent and Easter.

Please continue to read as often as possible at home with your child and to ensure they have their reading diary in school each day. Children receive two Dojo points each time they have read at home. When they have reached 50 points, they receive a prize from the class box. Children who have read four times each 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!

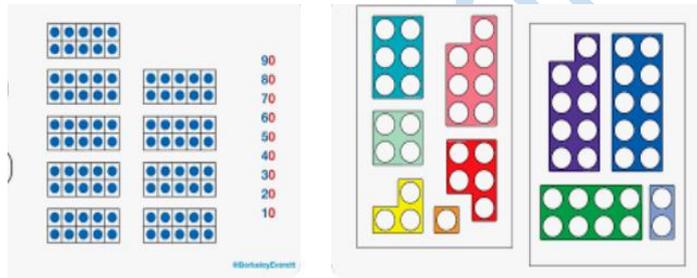
After half term we will be learning all about dinosaurs! We will be looking at the different types of dinosaurs, what they looked like and what they ate. Our role-play area is going to be a Dinosaur explorer café, where we will be writing menus, food orders and feeding hungry dinosaur explorers! We will 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.

We look forward to a fun-filled and exciting term ahead in Reception!

Year 1: Mrs Lambie

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 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. We will be getting ready for our phonics screening test in the summer so as much practise as possible with the sounds in their reading diaries will be very helpful-don't forget 4 reading sessions a week at home gets you in the raffle, the more times you read the more raffle tickets you get!

In our maths this term we will be working with bigger numbers up to 100 and learning to calculate with tens and units to 50. The children will represent numbers to 50, using a range of apparatus, such as Numicon and Dienes. We are enjoying our number sense maths where we are developing our feeling for number and patterns. We will be exploring odds, evens, 2 more, 2 less using number lines,



and part whole models to help us solve equations. 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 are continuing to work on this.

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 , 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 of stories as well as what an adjective is and how it improves our sentences. We will also be looking at other ways to improve our sentences including conjunctions and interesting starts including pronouns. This term we will be continuing to work on our beautiful handwriting and presentation. 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 will focus on changes that the fire made on the way houses were built and towns and cities were laid out.

There will opportunities as part of our outdoor learning to build a fire and bake our own bread, and to practise putting the fire out using a chain our children and buckets, just like it would have been in 1666. We will be re-enforcing the idea of past and present in all our work. In the second half of the term, we will be looking at shopping now and then and are hoping to visit the Blist Hills shops and one of our local supermarkets to see how shopping has changed from then to now.



In Art, the children will be learning all about Kandinsky.

They will be creating 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.

. Very excitingly this term we will be programming 'Beebots' as part of our ICT. Children will learn how to set an algorithm and debug a programme that goes wrong. The robots will be programmed to travel in different directions North, South, East and West, which links really well with our Geography work using the compass for directions.



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. The children will be learning about different countries involved in World War 2 and locating these on a map. We are delighted to have the opportunity to visit RAF Cosford where we will learn about equipment used through the ages and look at the different planes used.



| |
|---|
| Writing Check list B |
| CAPITAL letters |
| Full stops |
| ! |
| ? |
| Commas in a list ... and |
| Apertrophe for possession The dog's ball |
| Subordinating conjunctions When if that because |
| Coordinating conjunctions 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 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 and instructional writing.

Reading lessons take place every day and will consist of a range of weekly tasks linked to vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, or retrieval. 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 4 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 as well as estimate numbers to 100 on a number line. We will also 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 Plants through our science topic - Growing Seeds and Bulbs. The children will learn about how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants. We will also learn about animals by exploring lifecycles of different animals and what they need to be healthy. They will also be working scientifically through engaging in different investigations.



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

Class 3: Mr MorGan

We have a fun and busy term ahead. For the first half of the term our topic 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 will be working on producing, 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 instructions, recounts, story writing, diaries and newspaper reports.

In Mathematics this term, we are looking at division, identifying money and calculating transactions, learning the time, recognising properties of shape, and using statistics. 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 3-, 4-, 6- and 8-times tables so practise these as often as you can. Log in to Times Table Rock Stars to keep challenging yourself.



This term our P.E days are usually Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 4: 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 Howard Carter, Tutankhamun, 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 and identifying main clauses and subordinate clauses. We will also 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 book. We then work on follow up tasks which involves questions about our book/chapter that week and will focus on the VIPERS skills – vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieval and sequencing. 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 also have an additional PE session this term and this will take place every Tuesday. This will be outdoors and is in addition to their Wednesday and Thursday PE sessions. The children have a very exciting term to look forward to, in particular their weekly music lesson, taught by a ukulele music specialist every week! By the end of the term the children will be able to play their instrument alongside a selection of songs.

Class 5: Miss Carver

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 must play in making our world a better place.

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 4 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 have started the term exploring Roman numerals, we have become great code breakers using them! Our next focus is multiplication, multiplying 4-digit by 1-digit numbers leading on to short multiplication. 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. We will be battling Year 6 on Times Tables Rockstars so please encourage your child to practise at home if they have access to the internet, let's show that we truly are times tables rockstars! Their log in is in the front of their reading diary.

In computing we are exploring coding, using scratch to get our sprite to follow a range of commands! We will be programming and using algorithms too. In geography we will be identifying the countries inside the continents and locating them using different resources. We will also be looking at climates and biomes of these continents in detail as well as using directional language of the 8 compass points and using longitude and latitude to explore our planet. Lots of wonderful geography to do this term.

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.

Class 6: Miss Bulkeley-Jones



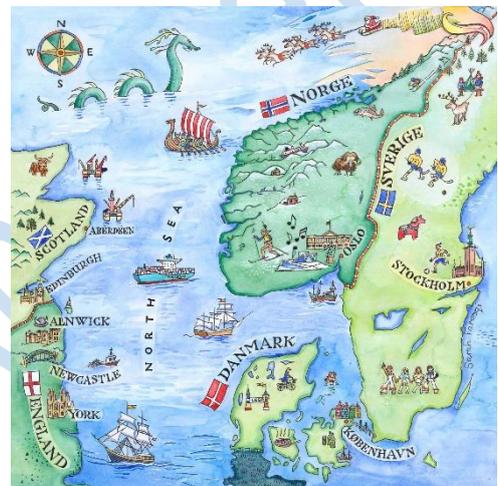
This term we have lots of exciting learning opportunities within class six. Within History we are looking at the Anglo-Saxons, the Scots, the Vikings and the Normans, and how they changed Britain. This will include looking at the archaeological discovery at Sutton Hoo. To support our learning, we will be looking at a variety of different sources and exploring how they can help us construct our understanding of the past.

Our Science work this term will focus on materials and looking at key questions including understanding if a solid is always hard; what materials have been used within the construction of the school and why that material was chosen. We will also explore the invention of the post it note and how Spencer Silver created it by accident.



Our music this term will be looking at Jazz as a musical genre and exploring the patterns and notes used to create specific rhythms.

Our DT will this half term explore papier mâché and use this technique to create a 3D structure based on Lunar New Year. Next half term we will move to food technology and link this to our Geography looking in more detail at the foods of Scandinavia. We will then be recreating savoury and sweet items. As part of this learning, we will look in more depth at food hygiene.



Our Geography work will allow us to learn more about Scandinavia, the countries that make it up and what human and physical features can be found within the region.

Art will allow us the opportunity to explore two different areas of art. We will be looking at sculpture and the work of Jeff Koons and then at collage and the work of artist David Adey.



Computing sees us undertake our first computer science unit on programming variables within code. We will be using the platform scratch to develop our block coding knowledge. We will also be looking at spreadsheets and how these are used with data.

We will also be getting ready for the up-and-coming SATs, which will be in May. Alongside the basic skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar, in our writing we will be creating persuasive adverts, studying the Anglo-Saxon legend of Beowulf, writing play scripts and setting descriptions.

Within Maths we are continuing with our Times Tables knowledge and applying this within different contexts, working on our arithmetic knowledge, learning about ratio, proportion and also more multiplication and division work.

We have already started on our spring term Bookfest books. There are lots of new titles to get stuck into. We have 6 titles to be explored that cover a range of genres. At the end of the term, we will have the opportunity to individually vote for our favourite book we read to go forward to Shropshire Bookfest. This is a really exciting opportunity and something we are really lucky to have the chance to participate in. Reading is such an important skill and developing a love of reading is something in class 6 we are really keen on. The children should be reading 4 times a week at home, and we are really grateful for all of your help and support at home with this.



This is a term of really exciting learning, and we can't wait for all the new experiences we will have.

Love One Another