

# Curriculum Newsletter

St Mary's Catholic Primary  
School

# Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn 2025

## Reception

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 have started 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 Celebrations and Superheroes. We will learn about the important work of real-life superheroes such as doctors, firefighters and police.

We will be having PE lessons on a Wednesday and a Friday. 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 or practise their sounds or poem at home. Once children reach 50 points they receive a prize.

We look forward to a fantastic first term at school!

### Class 1

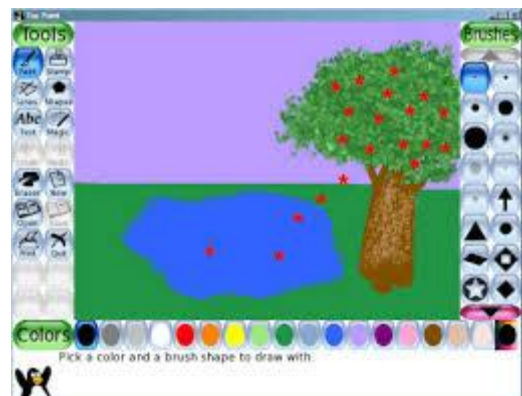
We have made a wonderful start to Year 1, and the children are settling in brilliantly! This term, our main focus will be on developing strong phonics skills and applying these to both reading and writing. Phonics is the foundation for learning to decode words and gain confidence with language, so it's incredibly important that children read at home regularly - ideally at least four times a week. Your support with this at home makes a huge difference and greatly supports their progress in school.

In Maths, we are building on our understanding of number bonds to 10, which are key building blocks for addition and subtraction. To help children visualise these concepts, we use tools like ten frames and number lines. As the term progresses, we will explore 2D and 3D shapes, learning their names and properties, and we'll introduce measuring with a ruler using centimetres, which is an exciting new skill for many children.



Our History and Geography topic this term is really exciting. We are focusing on how shopping and the high street have changed over time, with a special look at Madeley. To bring this to life, we will be taking an educational trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town, where the children will experience what a Victorian high street was like. This includes exploring different shops, noticing the layout and appearance of the stores, and understanding how shopping practices have evolved - from bartering goods to using coins, paper money, and now digital payments. This trip will give children a tangible connection to history and help deepen their understanding of change over time.

In ICT, the children will begin with the basics of using a PC. We'll focus on digital painting, which is a fun and creative way for the children to explore technology and build their skills in navigating software tools.



Our Outdoor Learning sessions continue to be a highlight. The children will enjoy activities such as shelter building, leaf rubbing, learning various knots, and outdoor cooking. Safety is our priority, so the children will also learn important rules about being around a fire and working safely outside. These hands-on experiences help develop resilience, teamwork, and a love for nature.

As the term progresses, we look forward to seeing the children grow more independent and confident in all areas of their learning. We are excited about all the discoveries they will make and the progress they will achieve. Of course,

we're also starting to get ready to celebrate the festive season with lots of fun and joy!

Thank you for your continued support - together, we can make this term a memorable and rewarding experience for your child.

## Class 2



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 learning about 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 - children will need their wellies and coats on these days as the weather begins to change through autumn.

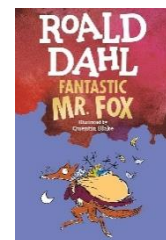




Writing Check list B
CAPITAL letters
Full stops
!
?
Commas in a list ... and
Apertrophs for possession The dog's ball
Subjoining conjunctions When if that because
Coordinating conjunctions Or And but
Extended noun phrases red flower
Tenses Past present
Comparatives
Vocabulary choices
Types of sentences 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, 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

The children have made a fantastic start to Year 3 and are already demonstrating the enthusiasm, focus, and independence that prepare them well for the exciting challenges of Key Stage 2. It's wonderful to see them so engaged and ready to deepen their learning across all areas.

This term, our humanities topic takes us on an incredible journey back in time, exploring the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. We have an exciting trip

planned to the Stone Age Experience in October, which will be a highlight of the term. During our visit, the children will step into the past as they build Stone Age camps, learn about ancient weapons and clothing, and even have the hands-on opportunity to sharpen their own tools. This immersive experience will bring history to life and help children understand how early humans lived, survived, and adapted over thousands of years.



In Maths, we are focusing on the crucial fundamentals of place value, working confidently with numbers up to 1,000. Once the children have secured this understanding, we will progress to mastering the four key number operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division - using three-digit numbers. These skills form the foundation for more complex calculations and problem-solving as the year progresses.

Our English curriculum is rich and varied this term. We are exploring two captivating texts: *Nim's Island* by Wendy Orr and *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman. Alongside these stories, children will engage with non-fiction texts that complement our themes. Our writing activities will focus on developing vocabulary, improving grammar, and honing spelling skills, all inspired by the books we are reading. Through this, children are learning to express themselves clearly, creatively, and accurately in their writing.



In Science, we begin with an exciting unit on *Rocks, Soils, and Fossils*. Children will investigate different types of rocks, understand how soil is formed, and explore how fossils are created - gaining hands-on experience with experiments and observations. Following this, we will move on to the topic of *Light*, where children will learn about how light travels, shadows, and

reflections, sparking curiosity about the natural world and scientific phenomena.

Our Art lessons this term are inspired by the geometric precision and vibrant colours of Josef Albers as well as the powerful, dramatic forms of Michelangelo. Children will develop their observational skills and learn new techniques to create their own artwork in these distinctive styles, encouraging creativity and an appreciation for art history.

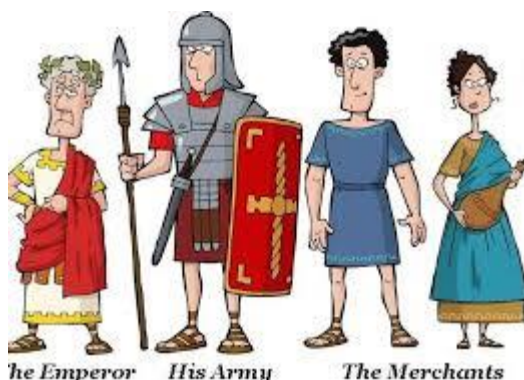
In Design and Technology, the children will enjoy a festive project making their own Christmas stockings. This will involve designing, measuring, cutting, and sewing - developing both practical skills and a sense of pride in creating something special with their own hands.

Our Computing lessons explore how computers connect and communicate, helping children understand the basics of computer networks. They will also use their creativity to produce animations, learning key digital skills that combine storytelling and technology.

We are also thrilled to announce that the children are beginning to learn a new language this term - Spanish! Their enthusiasm is wonderful to see, and it won't be long before you hear them sharing simple phrases and greetings. Learning a new language at this stage opens doors to new cultures and enhances communication skills.

There is so much to look forward to this term, and the children have made a brilliant start. Their curiosity, energy, and commitment are laying a strong foundation for the year ahead. We're excited to see their continued growth and achievements - keep up the fantastic work, Year 3!

#### Class 4



Class 4's topic this term is 'Rotten Romans'. During this term, the children will learn about ancient Rome and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. There will be many opportunities to research and discuss the Roman Empire, including Roman lifestyles, clothing, soldiers, and the British invasion. We will also explore the life of a gladiator-

what they did and why, the weapons they used, and where gladiator fights took place.



In Geography, we will research where Italy is and what it is like, with the expectation that children will be able to locate Italy on world and European maps as well as identify Rome and other major cities. We will discuss geographical features such as its size, population, mountains, and rivers, identifying the main tourist attractions. The information gathered will be used to compare similarities and differences between Italy and Britain. Additionally, we will look at the roads built by Roman soldiers and where they were constructed. The children will then have the opportunity to create their own road or path on the school grounds.

During our writing lessons, we will learn about the legend of Romulus and Remus, and create our own Roman-inspired plays and stories. We will also write explanation texts, information texts, and letters using Roman artefacts, people, and places as inspiration. The children will develop their skills by creating their own non-fiction texts.

In Mathematics, we will focus on place value, looking at partitioning and recombining four-digit numbers. We will study Roman numerals and their legacy in today's society. Children will learn to convert between units of measurement and multiply and divide by 10, 100, and 1,000, including working with decimals.

Our Science topic this term is electricity. We will learn how to keep ourselves safe around electrical items both inside and outside the home. The children will build electrical circuits incorporating



different components such as buzzers and switches, and use symbols to represent these parts. We will also research famous scientists associated with electricity and explore some of the major discoveries in this field.

Guided reading takes place every day and will include a weekly task. During this time, there will be opportunities for whole-class reading of texts, sequencing stories and events, and identifying features of both fictional and non-fictional texts. Children will receive a weekly slip explaining the text and the tasks they have completed.

The children have an exciting term to look forward to!

## Class 5

As we eagerly step into a brand-new term in Year 5, our excitement is palpable as we prepare to immerse ourselves in the captivating and ancient world of the Mayans during our history lessons. This remarkable civilization, renowned for its astonishing achievements in mathematics, astronomy, architecture, and art, offers us a doorway to explore a culture filled with rich traditions, complex social structures, and fascinating myths that have shaped human history. The Mayans' mastery of calendar systems, hieroglyphic writing, and monumental stone cities such as Chichen Itza and Tikal will broaden our perspectives and ignite our imaginations as we uncover their enduring legacy.



To bring this ancient civilization vividly to life, we are thrilled to have arranged an adventurous and immersive trip to Cadbury World. This visit promises to be an unforgettable experience where the children will delve into the history of chocolate - one of the most treasured

Mayan contributions to the world. They will trace the journey of cocoa beans from ancient Mayan ceremonies to the sweet treats we enjoy today, learning about the significance of chocolate not only as a delicacy but also as currency and a spiritual offering. The interactive exhibits and engaging demonstrations at Cadbury World will allow the children to connect history and science in a delectable, hands-on manner, ensuring the learning is as enjoyable as it is educational.

Enhancing this exploration further, the children will participate in a captivating Mayan workshop back at school. This interactive session will encourage them to become young archaeologists and historians, uncovering the mysteries of Mayan life through tactile activities. From deciphering Mayan glyphs to creating traditional crafts like colourful woven patterns or replica stone carvings, the workshop is designed to engage every sense and inspire a deeper appreciation for this vibrant culture. These experiences will nurture creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration as children work together to piece together the stories of the past.

Meanwhile, in science, our curiosity will pivot towards the fascinating realm of forces. This term, the children will become intrepid investigators, making thoughtful predictions and conducting a variety of carefully planned experiments and investigations. They will explore fundamental concepts such as gravity—the invisible force that keeps us grounded on Earth; friction, which affects how objects move against each other; and other forces like magnetism and air resistance. These hands-on activities will not only introduce important scientific principles but also foster the development of essential skills like observation, hypothesis testing, and recording results. The scientific journey promises to be both adventurous and enlightening, encouraging the children to see the world through the lens of inquiry and exploration.

Adding an artistic flourish to the term, our music lessons are set to take on an exciting new dimension with the introduction of the ukulele. Every Thursday, the classroom will resonate with the bright, cheerful tones of this delightful instrument. As the children learn to strum, play chords, and sing along, they will build confidence, improve coordination, and develop an ear for rhythm and melody. This new musical venture is designed to be accessible for beginners while also challenging more experienced students to grow their skills. The ukulele sessions will culminate in opportunities for performances, showcasing the children's progress and bringing a joyful atmosphere to our learning community.

Physical education is equally dynamic this term, with diverse activities designed to nurture both individual expression and teamwork. On Tuesdays, dance lessons will provide a vibrant outlet for the children to express themselves creatively through movement. They will explore various styles, learn choreographed sequences, and develop an appreciation for rhythm and physical coordination, all while boosting their confidence and emotional expression. Meanwhile, our Friday football sessions will focus on building fundamental skills such as passing, dribbling, and strategy, promoting fitness and healthy competition. These sessions are crafted not only to enhance physical development but also to teach the importance of sportsmanship, cooperation, and resilience.

With such a rich and diverse array of learning experiences planned, this term promises to be a whirlwind of discovery, creativity, and growth. Each activity has

been thoughtfully designed to engage Year 5 students in meaningful ways that spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and build lifelong skills. We are genuinely excited to see our young learners shine brightly, embracing new challenges and celebrating their achievements every step of the way. Here's to an inspiring and unforgettable term ahead!

## Class 6

Year 6 has an exciting and busy term ahead. In English, we will build on our knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching, specifically focusing on Care for Creation. This will inspire us to think about the legacy we leave behind and to write both information texts and seasonal poetry that reflect these themes. Our study of World War I will deepen our understanding of this pivotal moment in British history and will provide rich material for our writing as we explore personal stories, historical accounts, and reflective pieces.

In geography, we will extend our knowledge of the world by studying cartography and its importance in helping us understand different places. This will tie in with our history topic as we consider how maps have been used throughout time to document territories and conflicts. A visit to the National Memorial Arboretum will give the children a chance to engage directly with history, reflect on the impact of war, and enhance their understanding of remembrance through real-world experience.

Our science work will focus on classification, expanding on what the children already know about grouping living things based on their characteristics. They will learn about taxonomy and the significance of scientific categorization. In art, we will explore the use of monochromatic colour schemes and work on developing skills in both abstract and realistic drawing, helping the children to express their ideas creatively and thoughtfully.

Mathematics will build on prior learning by reinforcing times tables knowledge and applying it to increasingly complex problems. We will work with larger numbers, fractions, decimals, and percentages, exploring their practical applications. Reading will centre on how World War I is portrayed in both fiction and non-fiction texts, developing comprehension and analytical skills. Children

will practice various types of reading questions and engage with a diverse range of texts through Bookfest and reading for pleasure sessions.



Computing lessons will cover online safety, collaboration across digital platforms, and webpage creation, giving children the tools to navigate and contribute safely and creatively in a digital world. Music continues with ukulele lessons, allowing children to build

on their skills and enjoy making music together. Design and Technology will focus on food technology, with a project involving designing, improving, and making burgers, combining practical cooking skills with creativity and teamwork.

There is much to look forward to this term, and the children have already made a strong start. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and dedication are setting a great foundation for a successful and memorable year.