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**MCj04360410000[1] St Mary’s Catholic Primary School**

**Spring Newsletter**

**Wisdom Class**

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the Spring term. I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and managed to get some rest. Thank you for all the hard work you have put in, reading and encouraging your children in their learning.

**Homework**

Homework will continue to be given out on Thursday and will need to be returned to school for marking on Monday. We will be giving out the spelling sheets each week, following our Monster Phonics scheme. These are for practicing hand writing as well as the spellings; try to guide your child in forming their letters consistently and especially with their making sure their g, j, p, q, and y letters do ‘sit on the line with their tails hanging below’.

**P.E.**

P.E. will continue to be on Tuesdays and Fridays. **Please check that your child has the correct kit and that their P.E. shoes are labelled with their name.** Do also check that their plimsolls still fit. Your child’s earrings should be removed on these days. P.E. is outdoors on Monday and will be indoors on Friday. Friday’s lesson will focus on ‘dance’ and your child should have their P.E. footwear for this day.

**R.E.**

We will start with a focus on the Rosary and the ways in which we pray with Rosary beads. We will then look at accounts of how people came to know God, plotting passages in Jesus’s journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Finally, we will retell The Good Samaritan recognising it as a text from Luke’s Gospel and saying what it teaches about how Christians should live.

**Numeracy**

In Numeracy we have started focusing on numbers to 20 and will be using objects and representations like tens frames and dienes to show how numbers are made up of tens and ones. We will then practice adding and subtracting numbers up to 20. Later in the term we will start to measure length, weight and capacity in a variety of ways.

**Literacy**

In Literacy we will be looking at stories from familiar settings, some about lost toys, such as Knuffle Bunny and Dogger. We will then begin exploring the differences between information and story books, and learn how to use dictionaries. The children will read and write their own information and explanation texts as well as developing reading comprehension and story writing skills. After the half term we will be looking at fairy tales.

**Reading**

Make sure that your child brings their reading book and record into school every day so there are plenty of opportunities to read and to change their book.

As we are following the Monster Phonics reading scheme, the children will change their books when their group has read with the teacher a certain amount of times. It is really important that every child brings in their book, as if one loses or forgets theirs, another group will be unable to move onto the next book in the scheme.

Remember to ask your child questions about the text they read as this will help them to improve their comprehension skills and get much more from their reading. Each of the books focuses on a phonics sound and builds up high frequency words. Check that your child can read these words at the front of each reading book.

**Science**

This term we will be learning about ‘Materials’; what they are and what physical properties they have. We will be conducting some investigations into the properties and usage of materials. We will also be observing the change in the seasons.

**Humanities**

In Geography we will be learning about the countries and capital cities within the United Kingdom, and the seas without. After half term we will be learning about the life and legacy of Florence Nightingale for our History topic.

**ICT**

In ICT the children will be continuing their e-safety learning and will be using Espresso coding to find out about basic programming commands. They will learn to sequence instructions in order to create simple games and start to understand that an algorithm is a set of instructions for a computer to follow.

**Art / Design Technology**

In Art we will be looking at works by the artist Rousseau, especially his Tiger. The children will create their own jungle settings, replicating some of his techniques. They will also use collage to create a setting for a fairy tale.

In Design Technology the children will be baking gingerbread and tasting biscuits.

**Music**

The children will continue to learn more songs through the wonderful Sing Up scheme. This half term they will be focusing on pitched and unpitched rhythmic sounds, learning to find the beat, counting syllables and adding gesture to create a musical movement picture. The children will begin to compose musical sound effects, use percussive instruments in response to sounds and start to recognise notation. The three topics are called Football, Dawn from Sea Interludes and Musical Conversations.

**De Bono’s Six Thinking Hats**

The children will be learning about De Bono’s Six Thinking Hats. We have started using the Red Hat (feelings, intuition), Yellow Hat (positive thinking) and White Hat (information), and will be adding the Green and Black Hats this term (creativity and problem solving). The children will practice ‘wearing’ these hats when thinking in different ways. We use these methods to develop their thinking.

If you have any questions please feel free to come and see me after school.

Kind regards.

Ms Keevil