



Class 1 Newsletter

Term 1

Be the BEST You Can Be

Whatever you do, do with all your heart. Colossians 3:23

WELCOME!

Welcome back to all of our children and families after the summer holidays; we hope you have had a lovely break. Class 1 will be taught by Mrs Roberts from Monday to Thursday and by Ms Edgell on Fridays. We are very lucky, also, to be supported by Miss Riall.

We are really looking forward to the new term, with lots of exciting and interesting things for the children to do, including a visit to see author Duncan Beedie at the Bath Literacy Festival in October. We hope that our newsletter will give you all the information you need for the term ahead, but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to grab us at the start or end of the day.

What we are learning

Our *topic* this term is *London's Burning* which is all about The Great Fire of London, focusing on History and Personal Safety. Early on in the term we are hoping to have a visit from the local Fire Service to talk to the children about their work in the community.

In *English*, we will be starting off with the very familiar *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* which the children will learn to recite confidently before starting to write simple sentences. In the second half of the term we will be writing about the Great Fire of London as our non-fiction unit. For poetry, we are going to learn by heart some poems. Ask your children to perform them for you at home!

We are going to be continuing to develop our understanding of the number system in *Maths* and for much of this term we will be focussing on Number - Place Value. One of our initial objectives is counting to – and back from – 100 (and beyond). We will work a lot on this in class but it would be great if you could practise this at home too.

In *Science* we will be learning about *Seasonal Changes* - when each season is; what the characteristics of each is; how the weather changes and the effect it has on us and other animals. We will find out why the sun changes its position in the sky and when we're on the 'dark-side'!

We will be looking at the story of Creation for *RE* where the children will recognise that 'Creation' is the beginning of the 'big story' of the Bible. They will be able to retell the story of creation from Genesis 1:1–2.3 simply and say what the story tells Christians about God, Creation and the world.

Our *Computing* sessions this term will cover many aspects of *ICT* including the ways in which children use technology in their lives and its benefits and elements of e-safety.

In *Design and Technology*, we will be investigating fire engines and using what we find out to design and make our own.

We will be considering Being Me in My World through *PSHE* (Personal, Social, Health Education) where we will consider ourselves as members of Class 1 and how to be a good learner.

In *Music* we will be learning a song called *Hey You* which is in the style of Old-School Hip Hop! We will learn the rap, move to it, accompany it and maybe even compose our own verses...!

Reading

Reading books are assigned to children based on their developing phonics knowledge, allowing them to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to enable them to decode unfamiliar words and based on our Little Wandle program. We will listen to each child read every week in Guided Reading sessions and they will bring that same book home to read for the next week to consolidate their learning. Normally, a new book will be given out on a Wednesday to be returned the following week also on a Wednesday. We do ask that each book is returned the following week so that we can maintain the sets of books ready for the next group. We suggest to the children that the books are kept in their book bag/school bag to make life easier for all.

Please try to listen to your child read as often as possible and talk about the stories they have read. Children like repetition and it is therefore helpful to your child to re-read their book several times before it is changed – we will be keen to ensure your child is secure at a book/level before moving them to the next. As they become more familiar with the text and story, they will gain more confidence in their reading and be able to talk about what has happened and recall elements of the text.

We also ask that you write a comment in or simply sign the reading record, so that we know how well your child has read the book and that it needs to be changed. Reading books will be changed once a week unless the book has not been read.

Please bear with us over the next couple of weeks as we reassess where the children are and select an appropriate book. If in the short term the book seems too easy, it may just be a chance for us to recap on some valuable phonics phases.

Dates for this term

Tues 10th Sept: Individual photos

Wed 11th Sept: Class Meeting 3.15pm

Thurs 26th Sept: Fire Service visit (tbc)

Wed 2nd Oct: Visit to Bath Literacy Festival

Tues/Wed 8 and 9th Oct: Parents Evenings

Fri 11th Oct: Harvest Celebration

Useful Information

PE: This term, PE will be on a **Friday**. At St Mary's, our PE kit should include a burgundy (or white) t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and daps/trainers for outdoor activities - trainers may be more appropriate for outside play. Children are required to come into school already dressed in their kit on their PE day as this has proven successful and effective over the last year. Please can you still make sure all items of clothing are named? Children are always misplacing their jumpers or cardigans and once named they are so easy to return to their rightful owner! Although it seems children have a special skill of being able to 'smell' to see if a jumper belongs to them! Thank you.

...and finally

Please can you ensure your child has a water bottle in school every day, with their name on, which they will need to take home each evening to wash and refill. Each day the children will continue to have a piece of fruit for their snack, as part of the government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme which includes a variety of fruit and vegetables.

I will start giving out some 'light' homework in a couple of weeks. This will usually be phonics and based on what we are learning in class.

Thank you to everyone for connecting with Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a way for us to keep in touch and for us to sometimes share news and stories of what we have been up to in class. If you need to send an urgent message – e.g. if someone else is collecting your child from school – it is better to call the office as well in case we don't have a chance to pick up your message at that time in the school day.

We would really appreciate you saying goodbye to your children at the Class 1 (and 2) door as the children will always have an activity at their table place to help them transition and settle into the day. Thank you for your support with this.

As mentioned before, please come and see us if you have any questions and queries and we will do our very best to help.

Thank you.

Mrs Roberts, Ms Edgell and Miss Riall