



Class 1 Newsletter

Term 2

Be the BEST You Can Be

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

WELCOME BACK!

What a lovely, busy term this one is! We'll be getting stuck in to our Nativity rehearsals – *Jesus' Christmas Party* - and look forward to sharing our performance with you at the end of the term. We'll be making things for the Christmas Fayre which will be taking place in December. All of this alongside some great topics and learning opportunities to build upon the successes of last term.

What we are learning

Our *topic* this term is The Rainbow Bear which is a book about a polar bear by Michael Morpurgo. We will be finding out a bit about where we live and where the Arctic is in comparison. We will be learning about the landscape and climate, the different types of animals that live there and how they are adapted to survive in that environment.

In *English*, we will be reading a great book in literacy called Harold and the Purple Crayon and the children will write their own version of the story. For non-fictional writing, we will be writing a fact file about an Arctic animal. Alongside this we will continue our daily phonics, reading and story time sessions.

We are going to be continuing to develop our understanding of addition and subtraction in *Maths* and later in the term we will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes. Our KIRF for this term is *I know number bonds for each number to 10*.

Our Science topic is Animals including Humans in which the children will learn about physical characteristics that are both shared and different between animal species.

We will be thinking about how we celebrate our journey through life in RE and how Christians celebrate birth – which will lead us nicely into the story of the Nativity.

In our *Computing* sessions this term we are continuing with Purple Mash. It is important that your child learns how to log in independently as we encourage this at school. We are going to spend 3 weeks learning how to create pictograms using the 2Count app before moving on to 'algorithms' - which is following a precise set of instructions to achieve a goal. This is the basis of coding. As always, we will also be talking about keeping safe online when using computers and tablets; such as always asking for permission, ensuring that internet usage is supervised and equipping children to be able to say if they see something they don't like.

We have a great Art topic called Colour Chaos where we will be learning about the primary colours and then mixing them to create secondary and tertiary colours. We will be looking at different artists and how they use colours, tints and shading to create different effects.

We will be considering how to show respect for similarity and difference and understand how these differences make us all special and unique through our Celebrating Difference topic in *PSHE*.

In *Music* we will be learning and singing the songs for our Nativity performance of *Christmas Recipe*.

Homework: Reading, Phonics and Maths

Reading: As before, your child will continue to be given two reading books to read with you at home. One of the books they will bring home will be Phonics based and intrinsically linked to your child's level and requirements. The other book will also be of an appropriate level but will be chosen by your child and called a *Reading for Pleasure* book. *Please try to listen to your child read as often as possible and talk about the stories they have read and try to write a comment in or simply sign the reading record whenever you can, so that we know how well your child has read the book and that it needs to be changed.* Reading books will still be changed once a week unless the book has not been read.

In the first term we were able to embed a reading routine and are very grateful for the time you make for reading at home. Already we have established a homework routine too. This mostly has a focus on Phonics that reflects the work we are doing in class – either a new sound or relevant tricky words. We will also use this as an opportunity to practise the 45 Common Exception Words ('tricky words' – words that can't be sounding out using phonetics e.g. said, people...) that we want all children to learn by the end of Year 1. Occasionally, when appropriate, they may have maths homework – or even something based on a different subject – but it will be mainly phonics based. We endeavour to send new reading books and homework home on Thursdays though occasionally it may be on a Friday. Homework can be returned any day - but by Thursday at the latest so new work can be stuck in.

We will be very grateful if you can support your children with their homework where possible or needed as it really does reinforce the learning they are doing in class. Thank you.

Dates for this term

Wed 1st Nov: Class 1&2 Cake sale

Thurs 2nd Nov: Nasal flu vaccinations

Thurs 30th Nov: Christmas Disco

Fri 1st Dec: Mufti Day – donation for the Christmas Market

Wed 6th Dec: Christmas Fayre @3.15

Wed 13th Dec: Nativity @2pm

Thurs 14th Dec: Nativity @9.30am

Tues 19th Dec: End of Term @2.30pm

Useful Information

PE: This term, PE will still be on a *Friday*. The focus for this term is Dance.

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.

Cookery club continues on Mondays and Construction Club on Thursdays.

Please could all children have a pair of (named) wellies in school so that they can enjoy the school grounds in all weather.

...and finally

Thank you...

...for continuing to support your child with their reading – it really is the foundation for effective learning through the whole curriculum

... in advance for support with costumes, practising songs etc for our Nativity *Jesus' Christmas Party*... we can't wait

If you would like more information about what we will be covering this term and key vocabulary linked to our topics, please look at the Class 1/Term 2 page on our school website.

Please always come and see us if you have any questions and queries and we will do our very best to help.

Mrs Roberts, Ms Edgell, Mrs Lock, Miss McClennon