

**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 –*Little Angel Gets Her Wings* - 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 as well going on an exciting trip to the theatre to see *Snow Mouse*. 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 within 10 in *Maths* and securing our understanding of number bonds to 10 and numbers within 10. Our KIRF for this term is *Count in 2’s up to 24, linking with even numbers and supporting doubles.*

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 and Class 1 are fast becoming experts at independently logging themselves in. Our main unit is Lego Builders This unit encourages children to begin to think logically about scenarios. Children will be introduced to the term ‘algorithm’. This concept is at the core 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 *Little Angel Gets Her Wings.*

Dates for this term

Fri 8st Nov: Mufti-Day *wrap-a-gift* donations

Tues 12th Nov: Odd Socks Day

Mon 2nd Dec: Christmas Jumper Day – bottle tombola donation for fayre

Wed 5th Dec: Christmas Fayre @3.15

Tues 10th Dec: Nativity @2.15pm

Wed 11th Dec: Nativity @9.15am

Thurs 18th Dec: Egg Theatre trip – Snow Mouse

Thurs 18th Dec: End of Term @2.15pm

…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 *Little Angel Gets Her Wings*… 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, Miss Riall

Useful Information

PE**:** This term, PE will still be on a *Friday* and the children have the great opportunity to go to Writhlington for gymnastic sessions.

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.

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

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 Wednesdays though occasionally it may be on a Thursday. Homework can be returned any day - but by Wednesday 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.