



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

"To live, love and learn in a caring Christian community"

Class Information Letter January 2017: Pine, Sycamore and Willow classes

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a restful Christmas break and are ready for a busy spring term! The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a broad overview of the work that your child/ren will be completing in each area of the curriculum this term. It is hoped that this information will enable you to prepare, support and hold discussions with your child/ren about their schoolwork.

Literacy

Fiction

- Reading texts from different genres and authors
- Plan and write short stories
- Persuasive writing
- Recounts
- Journalistic writing

Non-Fiction

- Biographies/autobiographies
- Formal and Impersonal writing.

Speaking and Listening

- Use a range of oral techniques to present persuasive arguments
- Sequence points logically
- Use different types of questions and words
- Listen carefully and respond thoughtfully

Spelling

We will be following the objectives of the new curriculum. Spellings will be sent home every week and should be practised daily.

Grammar and punctuation

Weekly comprehension

Handwriting

Numeracy

Number

- Place value, ordering and rounding numbers
- Number operations (\times - / +)
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Problem solving and algebra
- Making decisions and checking results using inverse operations

Shape, Space and Measures

- Measure length, mass and capacity
- Identify, measure and draw angles
- Understand and convert metric units
- 2D and 3D shapes; reasoning about shapes
- Calculate area, perimeter and volume
- Measures, including solving problems

Data Handling

- Solve problems by representing, extracting and interpreting data in tally charts, frequency tables, pictograms, bar charts, diagrams and line graphs

If you require further information on these units of work please look at the following:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Parents.aspx>

<http://bbc.co.uk/schools>

<http://www.channel4.co.uk/learning>

<http://www.stjosephs207.herts.school.uk>

P.E.

Indoor Games: Using equipment to record and improve performance; indoor athletics

Outdoor Games: Football, netball and hockey

Topic

This year we are teaching Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art and D&T separately.

Science

Let's get moving

In this unit, the children will learn about forces and machines. Starting with gravity, they will then study friction forces, including air and water resistance, before investigating how simple machines work.

We are dinosaur hunters

In this unit, the children will have a chance to study, research and present information, based on their own questions about dinosaurs. This topic is focused on developing the children's scientific skills.

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(For R.E., please see our attached letter)

Computing

We are Architects

In this unit, the children research examples of art gallery architecture, before using Trimble SketchUp to create their own virtual gallery. Finally, they use the gallery to exhibit their own art work.

We are app planners

In this unit, the children will be learning about the capabilities of smartphones, thinking of a problem that a smartphone or tablet app could solve, and then pitch the idea for their app.

History

How did World War Two impact our local area?

In this unit, the children will research the impact of World War Two on the area in which they live.

Geography

What is it like in the Amazon?

In this unit, children find out about the Amazon region of South America, considering what it is like to live in the region, as well as how it is being damaged and how it can be protected.

D&T

Building bridges

In this unit, the children will explore how bridge designs have changed and developed over time. They will build models using readily available materials.

Art

Cityscapes

In this unit, the children will explore cities around the world and re-create their skylines. The children will learn new art techniques and will discover ways to combine these techniques to create their own original pieces of art work.

Music

Music lessons will follow the Music Express scheme and topics this term include:

Life cycles (focus is on structure in music)

Keeping healthy (focus is on the beat in music)

French

The children will develop language skills including, grammar, listening, speaking writing and reading. The topics covered this term include:

-the weather

-clothing

General Information

P.E.

Please ensure that your child has their correct kit in school throughout the week ensure that it is labelled. Pupils should have:

White shirt and blue shorts or blue tracksuit, plain trainers, socks, and tape for earrings if these cannot be removed.

Homework:

All children will receive literacy and numeracy homework each week. Literacy homework will include a grammar or punctuation activity and weekly spellings. We also expect your child to be reading regularly at home. Numeracy homework will usually be based on the objectives covered in class that week. In addition, your child **must** also continue to practise their times tables facts to achieve instant recall. Pupils may also be sent home with test papers that need correcting or completing.

Please note that the above may vary depending on their sets

Further to the above, your will also be required to carry out research tasks for a variety of class topics in other subjects throughout the term.

UKS2 Year 5

Literacy: homework will be sent home on a Monday and should be handed in the following Monday (this includes spellings which will be tested on a Monday).

Numeracy: homework will be sent home on a Thursday and should be handed in the following Thursday.

UKS2 Year 6

Initially, homework will be sent home as for Year 5 children: however, once the CGP revision books have arrived (a letter will follow within the next week on this) the children will be completing these independently to prepare for their SATs in May. They will continue to receive weekly spellings to practise.

Uniform/Appearance:

We believe that the children should take pride in the way they present themselves e.g. shirt tucked in and top buttons done up. We *do not* permit hair gel, nail polish or jewellery besides plain studs and a watch and would be grateful for your support in this matter. The children are expected to have clearly labelled indoor and outdoor shoes (please avoid black rubber soles indoors) and labelled PE kit.

As you know, Mrs Sarah Ross is leading KS2 this year. Should you have any concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact her via the School Office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss Cassidy-Jones

Mrs Ross

Mrs Brooks

Mr Doherty