



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Class Information Letter January 2024

Poplar and Rowan classes

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and are ready for a busy spring term! It has been great welcoming the pupils back to school and seeing their ongoing eagerness to learn and positive attitudes.

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.

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

English

This term we are continuing to use the new approach to English which comes from Herts For Learning. The scheme includes the teaching of grammar and punctuation.

We will be considering the purpose of our writing under the four following headings:

Entertain – Inform - Persuade and Discuss. These four purposes will encompass the writing genres that we are used to referring to.

Fiction

Description: - The Water Tower by Gary Crew
Creating Mystery & Suspense: various texts, inc. Boy in the Tower (by Polly Ho-Yen), Varjak Paw (by SF Said), Read, Scream & Repeat (ed. by Jennifer Killick)

Non-Fiction

Persuasive letters: The Misadventures of Frederick (by Ben Manley, illus. by Emma Chichester Clark)

Biographies: Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World (by Kate Pankhurst); Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History (by Vashti Harrison); Stone Girl Bone Girl (by Laurence Anholt); Groundbreaking Scientists (by J.P. Miller)

Narrative Poems

'The Listeners,' by Walter de la Mare

Spelling

We will be following the objectives of the curriculum and focusing on key topic vocabulary. Spellings will be uploaded to Spelling Shed each week and should be practised daily.

Grammar and punctuation will be taught throughout our English units, giving the pupils an opportunity to apply concepts.

Weekly **reading comprehension** linked to guided reading texts will be completed in class.

P.E.

Invasion Games: Netball. Rules, positions and tactics associated with netball. Pupils will use competitive games to develop their teamwork and skills.

Gymnastics: Dance – Exploring and using dance styles through the ages.

Science

Material World

In this unit, the children learn about materials and how they change. First they test properties of materials, before looking at how materials dissolve, what a solution is, and evaporation. Finally, the children compare reversible and irreversible changes.

Circle of Life

The children will study the life cycles of various species. They also look at and describe the life processes of reproduction in plants and animals (butterflies and frogs).

Music

This term we will be following an adapted Music Express scheme covering the following topics:

Life cycles: Sing, compose and perform music using complex techniques and structures.

Keeping healthy (beat): Perform with others and evaluate performances of modern musical styles.

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mathematics</u></p> <p>Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and order fractions. • Adding and subtracting fractions. • Problem solving (additions, subtraction, multiplication and division). • Multiplying fractions by whole numbers. • Converting units of measure. • Area, volume and capacity. • Percentages and percentage problems. • Shape – reflection and translation. • Perimeter and angles. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>History</u></p> <p>Would the Vikings do anything for money? In this unit, the children will investigate the world of the Vikings and discover how we know how the Vikings lived.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Geography</u></p> <p>Where does all our stuff come from? In this unit, the children will find out about the UK's global trade links, investigating where everyday products come from and the journey they take to our homes. They will also look at the pros and cons of buying local or imported goods.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>French</u></p> <p>The children will develop language skills including, grammar, listening, speaking writing and reading. The topics covered this term include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telling the time. • Fruits and food. • Feelings. • Numbers to 100. • Prices. • Maths calculations. | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Art AND DT</u></p> <p>Construct Viking Long Boats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider designs that float well. • Experiment with paper technology. • Evaluate their design. <p>Colour – Structure and grid work of Mondrian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create collages using a variety of different media. • Create a tartan design based on a grid system. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Computing</u></p> <p>We are Artists In this unit, the children will use vector and turtle graphics to explore geometric art, taking inspiration from the work of Escher, Riley and traditional Islamic artists, as well as experimenting with complex 'fractal' landscapes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PSHE</u></p> <p>This week our new JIGSAW scheme was launched in assembly. The units for this term are:</p> <p>Dreams and Goals – aspirations, how to achieve goals and understanding the emotions that go with this.</p> <p>Healthy Me – being and keeping safe and healthy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RSE</u></p> <p>Learn about the Holy Trinity</p> <p>Apply catholic social teaching to everyday life.</p> |
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General Information

P.E.

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

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

Homework:

All children will receive English and maths homework each week. Details of this will always be posted on SeeSaw. English homework will include spellings and either a reading comprehension or a grammar / punctuation activity. We also expect your child to be reading daily at home and for you to initial their reading record book weekly so that it can be handed in with the homework each Thursday.

Maths 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.

Maths and English homework will be sent home on a **FRIDAY** and should be submitted by the following **THURSDAY at the latest**. In addition to the above, there may also be seasonal R.E. or other topic tasks to complete.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Roper/Mrs Higgs Miss Roque