



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

Class Information Letter September 2023: Sycamore and Willow classes

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a restful summer break and are ready for a busy autumn 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.

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

English

This term we are using a new and innovative way of approaching 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; Discuss**

These four purposes will encompass the writing genres that we are used to referring to.

Fiction

- Using texts from different genres and authors
- Plan and write descriptive scenes and narratives
- '*Night of the Gargoyles*' by Eve Bunting
- Writing to entertain - '*The Wisp*' by Zana Frallion

Non-Fiction

- Historical writing linked to the Windrush generation '*Coming To England*' by Floella Benjamin
- Non-chronological and report writing - '*Planetarium*' by Raman Prinja
- Speech making and formal writing - '*Talking History*' by Dr Joan Lennon

Poetry

- Poetry to entertain - '*Caged Bird*' by Maya Angelou

Speaking and Listening

- Sequence points logically
- Use different types of questions and words
- Listen carefully and respond thoughtfully

Guided Reading

This half term we are reading '*Room 13*', and then after the October break, we will be reading '*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.'

Mathematics

Number

- Place value - reading, writing, ordering and rounding numbers up to 10,000 000.
- Number operations (x - / +) including multiplying up to 4 digits by a two-digit number; dividing up to 4 digits by a two-digit number.
- Fractions, decimals and percentages - adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators; multiplying pairs of proper fractions; dividing proper fractions by whole numbers; multiply one-digit numbers with up to two decimal places by whole numbers; recall and use equivalences between simple fractions, decimals and percentages, including in different contexts.

Problem solving and algebra

- use simple formulae; generate and describe linear number sequences; express missing number problems algebraically.

Shape, Space and Measures

- Solve problems involving the calculation and conversion of units of measure, using decimal notation up to three decimal places
- Compare and classify geometric shapes based on their properties and sizes and find unknown angles in any triangles, quadrilaterals and regular polygons
- Recognise, describe and build 3-D shapes, including making nets.
- Recognise that shapes with the same areas can have different perimeters and vice versa.

P.E.

Invasion Games (football) and gymnastics.

Science

Staying Alive

The children will recognise the parts of and understand the function of the circulatory system. They will investigate some of the effects of exercise on the body and understand the need for a healthy, balanced diet.

We're adapting/evolving

In this unit, the children will learn how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment; how characteristics are passed from parents to offspring; the work of key palaeontologists and scientists, including Charles Darwin.

History

What impact did the Anglo-Saxons have?

This unit aims to give an overview of the significant people and events during the Anglo-Saxon period in Britain and to highlight some of the major changes during this period. We will explore the broader historical themes of invading and settling before a time when Britain was unified under a single monarch. We will explore the impact of the spread of Christianity on wider culture, including the transformation of writing. There will be an emphasis on allowing pupils to consider the sources of evidence that form our understanding of this period of British history.

Geography

What is it like in the Amazon?

We will look at the climate of the Amazon and how this has impacted the animal population. The children will design an animal that is suitably adapted to life in the Amazon. Additionally, they will research the various tribes that call the Amazon home. The climax to the unit will see the children debate the positive and negative effects of deforestation.

Music

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

World Unite: To explore rhythms and melody in singing, movement and dance. To learn about syncopation, pitch and harmony through world music.

Journeys: To learn a repertoire of songs themed around journeys and cultural diversity. To create a song cycle performance.

French

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

- The Classroom
- The House

D&T

Building Bridges

This unit involves the children learning about different types of bridges and the structures that support them. Using readily-available materials, the children explore ways in which forces act on bridge structures, how they are constructed and how they are strengthened. This heavily practical unit culminates in an exciting prototype/model bridge building team challenge!

Art

Monet and the Impressionists

The children explore what impressionism is and where and when it began. They explore Monet's paintings of landscapes, haystacks and cities as well as the artwork Monet produced in his later years.

Computing

We are Architects

For computing, the pupils 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 artwork

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. English homework will include a reading, grammar or punctuation activity and weekly spellings (there will be a spelling test each Friday for the spellings set the previous Friday).

We also expect your child to be reading regularly at home – they need to **record in their reading record each day** to show they have read for a minimum of 15 minutes. Parents also need to record in the reading record **at least once a week** to show they have either read to or listened to their child read as well as asking relevant questions about the text to help improve their child's comprehension.

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.

English: homework will be set online on a **FRIDAY** via Edshed/Seesaw and must be completed by the following **Friday**.

Maths: homework will also be set online on a **FRIDAY** via Edshed/Seesaw and must be completed by the following **Friday**.

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

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.

Thank you for your continued support. We are delighted to be teaching your children this year.

Kind regards,

Mr Carrington and Miss Curran