



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2017

Year 1 Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Miss. J. O'Connell

Dear Parents

Below are a few suggestions that I hope you will find helpful when continuing to support your child.

Remember that praise and fun are the key to enjoyable learning and motivation.

As the children are maturing it is important that they continue to develop their independence.

Please encourage your child to help pack their book bag for the day.

Religious Education

Year 1 will continue to follow the programme of work outlined in the Curriculum Strategy for Religious Education, 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. The programme will help the children to continue develop an appreciation of themselves and the world around them. The Virtues for this half - term are Grateful and Generous.

Year 1 will work on the following units: Christmas, Jesus as a teacher and healer, Forgiveness, Lent and Holy Week.

Mrs Barton will continue to teach Year 1 on Tuesday afternoons and will focus much of her work on developing personal prayer through the above mentioned topics.

Father Craig encourages the children to attend Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Regular attendance at Mass will help each child to become familiar with words and actions used, as well as helping to develop



an awareness and understanding of the significance of different parts of the service and a deeper understanding of how our faith is an integral part of daily life. Year 1 will continue to focus on and learn more about their class Saint- Saint Francis.

During Lent we will hold several fundraising activities to support charities. More details will be sent out nearer the time.

English

Your child will bring home a reading book each evening. Try to create a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere and listen as your child reads to you. Encourage them to approach new words by segmenting them or 'reading on', then returning to the word and attempting it again within the context of the complete sentence. Ask your child to look at the beginning and ending of each word. Return to any tricky words at the end of the book whilst discussing the story. Do encourage your child to use the pictures to help with their reading. Feel free to supplement the school reading scheme with books from home or your local library. You can record these in your child's diary too.



It is really important now to check your child reads 'beyond the text'. To support this you need to ask your child to predict what is going to happen and discuss possible alternative endings to stories. I will include more non-fiction books, please look at the features of these books which include *contents page, index and glossary*. Check your child really understands how to use diagrams and photographs in these books to gather information.

We visit the school library, every Tuesday and each child may choose one book to take home and share with you. *Please remember to return it the following week.*

Phonics lessons will continue throughout each week. It is important that your child uses their spelling knowledge when they are writing at home. When completing homework do ensure your child uses a sharp pencil and forms letters correctly.



The children will be writing stories and extending their written work by using adjectives along with basic connectives such as: and, so but, because, after. They will begin to use the correct terminology: adjectives and verbs as these are expectations of the New Curriculum.

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Maths

Playing games, such as snakes and ladders, is an ideal way of extending addition work as it involves adding on (counting on). Dominoes is also a good game, it can be used in the conventional manner or as a way of making sums using the numbers on individual domino pieces.



Year 1 will focus on Number work: adding and subtracting—relating these to real life problems (linking to money).

They will also be focussing on Shape, Space and Measure work: measuring length, and weighing and comparing objects.

Creative Curriculum



The theme for the first half term's Creative Curriculum is 'Water' which is a Geography based topic. Year 1 will be learning more about maps, learning map skills, using vocabulary to describe and

compare countries and creating their own maps.

Science

Year 1 will be starting a new topic of Materials.

In this topic the children will be learning about different materials including man-made and natural.

Creative Play

Play is an essential part of learning and is often at its best when it is child led. At school we offer plenty of indoor and outdoor play as a way of continuing to develop social skills and imagination along with problem solving, Maths, Science and English. Encourage your child to play, it is often the smallest item e.g. an empty box or tiny toy figure which is the springboard for lengthy periods of creativity for a child.

In this age of modern technology it is important that children have opportunities for physical play. Please monitor the age suitability rating of the games your child is accessing, 5-6 year old children should only be using a laptop/iPad with an adult sitting with them and supervising very closely.

P.E

Each week Year 1 will use the large apparatus to plan short gymnastics sequences including jumping, balancing, and travelling at various heights and levels.

Please ensure your child has the correct PE Kit in school -navy blue shorts and a plain white T shirt. Remember that Queens Park (Court Oak Road) and Lightwoods Park (Hagley Road) have excellent play areas for children as has Sandwell Valley Country Park. These are local, free to use and an excellent way of spending time outdoors. Lickey Hills and Clent Hills are also nearby and provide large open spaces for exploring and walking and outdoor fun which is vital in this day and age of modern technology where we continually strive to encourage and maintain an active lifestyle.



Homework

Along with daily reading I will be sending home weekly homework. This will be set on a **Wednesday** and needs to be completed and returned by the following **Tuesday**. It is more beneficial to do a little bit of homework each night rather than rush it all in one evening. Modelling good working habits while your child is young will help them as they continue through their education.



Homework is an opportunity to see what your child is learning in school as many parents have spoken to me about the fact that their child 'doesn't talk about school' when they get home. Try to use homework as a way of finding out a little bit about our learning. From this term the children will also be set homework to complete on Education City. Their log in details are at the front of their homework book, if you have any problems logging into their account please let me know.

Education City can also be accessed on a tablet through Puffin Academy. While working with your child on Education City, be aware that they should be reaching 80%+ each activity. Children need to read the instructions carefully for each activity. Please ensure your child saves their score after completing each activity.

Please read the monthly newsletters from Mrs van Vliet for details of events that Year 1 will be involved in.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Miss. J. O'Connell



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