



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

## Year 1 Class Newsletter Summer 2017

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 during the final term in Year 1.

### 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 helps the children to develop an appreciation of themselves and the world around them.



Year 1 will work on the following units: Easter, Pentecost and Following Jesus today.

Mrs Barton will continue to work with Year 1 on Tuesday afternoons this half term and will focus much of her work on developing personal prayer and understanding different ways to pray along with developing an awareness of why people pray.

Each week Year 1 will share the Class Prayer Bag, on a Monday and Thursday. If chosen, pupils are asked to write a prayer linked to the Virtue of the term, work they are doing in R.E or events happening in the world around them.

Father Craig likes to see as many families as possible attending Mass at the weekend., especially the 11 a.m. Family Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church on a Sunday. Weekly attendance at Mass helps each child to become more familiar with words and actions used, as well as developing 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.

When attending Mass please point out different features of the church, for example, the Paschal candle, the baptismal font and the altar. Please also model reverence when at Mass, so that your child understands that church is a place of worship.

### English

Please continue to read **with** your child each night. Encourage your child 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. Ask lots of questions to encourage prediction in the story. Play games to develop imagination by asking what else could have happened? Each Monday Year 1 will continue to visit the school library. During this session the children may be directed to books on a particular theme to support our class work. Please remember to return school library books each week.



Visits to your local library, where children can borrow up to 8 books for a month, free of charge are always useful. Our local libraries have an extensive collection of children's books. Library staff will willingly help you guide your child to a suitable author. Many children enjoy non-fiction books, but remember it is important to allow children select their own books - if they are interested in them, they are more likely to read them.

**Letters and Sounds** lessons will continue to be taught throughout each week. This is taught through a new initiative: 'Read, Write, Inc', which teaches phonic knowledge, linked to the application of accurate spelling, whilst practising how letters are formed correctly to improve handwriting. When completing homework please ensure your child uses a sharp pencil and forms all letters correctly. Continue to allow your child to use the additional pages in their homework book if you feel they would benefit from a little more practice of particular words or handwriting. During the week of the **12th June 2017** Year 1 will all take part in the National Phonic Screening Assessment. We will report the results to you in the end of year report.



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## Mathematics

I cannot stress enough the importance of playing games to develop Maths skills. Games like Bingo, Frustration, Battleships, card games and Top Trumps are all superb family games that can be enjoyable and educational at the same time. There are many excellent online Maths games but please do not neglect board/card games which develop interaction with others through face to face communication.

Number skills will be developed by learning how to find fractions of shapes and numbers, partitioning numbers and understanding the place value of each digit in a 2 and 3 digit number. The children will learn about using addition and subtraction in everyday life and understanding number patterns particularly counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. At school there is an interactive resource *Percy Parker* which is used with the class to help to learn times tables. It is important that the children not only learn their times tables off by heart, but also that they can see how to apply this knowledge in real life situations. E.g. If there are five people in your family and they all have 2 sweets each, how many sweets will be needed altogether? Children also need to see how inverse operations relate to one another.

e.g.  $5 \times 2 = 10$

$10 \div 2 = 5$

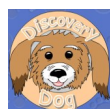
Year 1 will also be focussing on Shape, Space and Measure which includes time, capacity, and properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Language to be developed will include o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to the hour, cm and metres, millilitres and litres, cube, cuboid, sphere, triangle and triangular prism.

## Creative Curriculum

This term's new Creative Curriculum topic is 'The Environment' with the main focus of Homes. It is Design & Technology based and will incorporate a great deal of Science including properties of materials and developing an understanding of the suitability of different materials of different purposes.

## Science

Topics for this term include: **Plants and Seasonal changes**. Through these topics the children will be developing investigative skills



using our Science props like 'Discovery Dog' and 'Naughty Nora'.

## P.E

Most P.E lessons will take place outdoors this term, so please check your child has their full PE kit- navy shorts and a plain white t-shirt. They will need to have suitable pumps which can be left in school. Please clearly name all P.E. kits. It is amazing how many clothes travel around the class when everybody is changing! We will link athletics to Maths by using stopwatches to record personal best (PB) and try to improve upon them. If you have stopwatch at home that your child can practise with, this will be most helpful.



## Homework

I am delighted to report that each week nearly every child in Year 1 completes their homework to a high standard and returns it to school on time. Thank you for your continued support. Education City homework activities cover a range of topics which we are working on in class. Please supervise your child when they are working on these activities as well as when they are working on a computer in order to promote e-Safety.



## Sun protection

Please check your child has a school sun hat/cap and remember to apply sun lotion before coming to school. Staff are not allowed to apply sun cream to children; it is the responsibility of parents to do this. Sometimes Year 1 will be learning outdoors in our extensive grounds during this term, so please ensure your child is suitably protected. Fashion caps/hats are not school uniform - please refer to the uniform policy on our website for guidance on summer uniform.

Please provide **plain water** in your child's water bottle. Children have free access to the water dispenser throughout the day and can fill up their bottle whenever it is necessary. Please be aware that we do not have spare bottles in class and we cannot access hot water in class to hygienically wash bottles that are not taken home at the end of each day.



Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me.

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