



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Autumn 2017

Class Newsletter

Year 2

Class Teacher: Mrs Workman

Dear Parents

Now that we have been back at school for over a week, I am pleased that the children in Year 2 are settling to classroom routines.

This newsletter will explain some of the work they will be doing this term and give you ideas of how best to help your children with their learning. I hope it will be useful.



## HOMEWORK

Your child will be given homework which will help to reinforce and practice skills as well as finding out about new topics.

Homework will be given out each **Friday** and must be returned the following **Thursday**. I hope that this will enable families to develop and manage homework routines to fit in with family life and activities. It is always best to plan to complete work in several sessions rather than all at once. Little and often is most effective when learning spellings or reinforcing skills.

**All homework must be completed neatly in pencil.**

Please encourage your child to do their best work and ensure that they present their work well with the correct letter formation. Please stick any loose homework sheets that are given, into their homework book. Homework books and reading diaries should be covered with suitable paper e.g. wrapping paper. Name stickers will then be given to put on the front of the books.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Year 2 will be following the work outlined in the Curriculum Directory: 'Living and Growing as the People of God'. In the first half term the topic is Old Testament stories and Year 2 will focus particularly on the characters Noah, Jonah, Abraham and David. This will develop their understanding and knowledge of the Bible and how God spoke to His people. They will then find out about special celebrations and feast days in the context of the liturgical year.



## PRAYERS

Year 2 will continue to learn some more formal prayers as well as consolidating the prayers learned last year. "The Prayer to our Guardian Angel" and "Eternal Rest" is in our Class Prayer Book which will be sent home. Your child will also have an opportunity to take home the Class Prayer Bag. It would be lovely if this could be used in family prayer time and discussions.



Year 2's Class Saints this year are St Jacinta and St Francisco of Fatima. Please encourage your child to find out about the life of these young saints and the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

## READING

Reading is a most important aspect of homework and aids children's development in many other basic skills including spelling and writing. It is so important to try to nurture a love of reading early on. Your child will be provided with reading scheme books as well as Class Library and School Library books.



A variety of books, in addition to the reading scheme books, by different authors and non fiction books will help to develop preferences.

Year 2 children are expected to read to an adult every night . **Please ensure the reading diary is signed showing the pages read or indicating that you have discussed the story.** Please encourage reading with expression especially when speech marks and exclamation marks are used. As well as listening to your child read, you could discuss the story and talk about the parts you have both enjoyed.

### LITERACY

This term Year 2 will be exploring stories with familiar settings e.g. the park, shops, school. Talking about stories as well as reading will help your child to develop a sense of the structure of a story which will aid their story writing greatly.



Instruction writing is another theme for the half term. Noticing instructions in games, model making and recipes will help to develop this genre of writing.

### SPELLING

Your child will be given spellings to learn regularly. Please encourage your child to learn a few spellings each night. The Look Cover Say Write method is a good way of getting your child to practise spellings in a structured way. Full instructions will come with their homework.

Maybe break the list down i.e. 2 or 3 spellings per night to learn the words. Ensure that the meanings of words given to learn are understood in context.

### MATHEMATICS

Year 2 will continue to develop a good understanding of number through counting, exploring the properties of numbers and calculations strategies.

Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and later 3s and 4s (forwards and backwards) will be a frequent

activity in class and there will be a particular focus on counting in 10s from any number to help with addition work. Homework tasks will reflect the work completed in class.



The Maths topics this term will focus on **Money, Shape and Measures**. Please allow your child to handle real money to encourage coin recognition. Your child should be able to quickly identify all the coins and know the amounts that cannot be made with one coin.

Please help your child to recall common 2D and 3D shapes. Practising measuring small objects using centimetres, remembering to start at 0 on the ruler, will help to reinforce the concept of length.

### SCIENCE

The topic for this term will be 'Plants and Animals' and Year 2 will focus on the characteristics of living things. Talking about nature, including naming common plants, birds and animals would be beneficial.



### CREATIVE CURRICULUM

Whole school topics for this term are:

Community— Year 2 will be learning about the local area, drawing maps and finding out about the people that make up our local community.

Celebrations— Year 2 will observe and draw patterns in nature and use natural materials in collage techniques.

If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you at Year 2's Inspire Workshop on Tuesday 26th September and again at Parents' Evening in October.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Workman

