



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2017

Year 2 Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mrs Workman

Dear Parents

Happy New Year !

The children have settled back very well into their second term of Year 2 after the Christmas holidays. This is a very important term for Year 2 and this letter outlines some of the themes they will be covering this term so that you will be able to support your child's learning. Homework will continue to be given out on **Fridays** and handed in on **Thursdays**. Please continue to support your child with their homework and ensure that it is of a good standard and ready to be handed in on Thursday mornings.



Religious Education

During this term Year 2 will be following work outlined in the Curriculum Strategy for Religious Education : 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'. The children will develop their understanding of Jesus through the study of a selection of 'Parables and Miracles'. They will also prepare themselves for Easter during Lent, learning that this is a special time of forgiveness.



English :Phonics and Spelling: Your child will continue to receive weekly spellings and will be tested on these regularly to check that they can apply all spelling patterns when writing. Please encourage the learning of spellings throughout the week using the Look Cover Say Write Check method.

Reading: Year 2 will be focussing on comprehension skills including inference and deduction (reading between the lines and finding an answer which is not explicit within the text). There will be a high focus on the children's understanding of a range of texts. Fluency and expression are key skills which will continue to be monitored when the children are reading.

Your child will bring a reading book home each evening from Monday to Thursday with specific pages to read that evening. Please ensure that only the given pages are read each evening so that the children stay together as a group. Encouraging your child to talk about the book and asking and answering questions about the content are so important for developing their general understanding. Please encourage your child to answer and explain their ideas in detailed sentences.

Sometimes it may seem that your child is only expected to read a few pages when they are capable of more— this is because they are reading specifically for comprehension rather than reading stamina. It is most important that children continue to build up their concentration and stamina by reading at length a few times a week. Story books from home or the library are ideal for this and sharing the reading with your child is also a great way of fostering a love of reading.



Free Choice Friday-Every Friday your child will be asked to choose their own book to take home to widen their experience and choice of reading material.



Writing: Handwriting is very important and over this half term we will look closely at correct letter formation, particularly starting letters in the right place and forming flicks. Your child will have homework tasks to reinforce good practice.

Traditional Tales, Fantasy Stories and books by Anthony Browne will be some of the themes covered in writing tasks over the term. Your child will learn some of the common features of these genres and learn how to use their writing skills to develop an understanding of these styles. Basic sentence punctuation is now expected from Year 2. Please ensure written work in homework tasks is of a high standard.

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Numeracy

This term Year 2 will be reinforcing the calculation strategies for addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, finding fractions of numbers and calculating missing numbers. All these calculation strategies were explained at the Inspire Parents' Meeting. Homework tasks will support this learning.

There will also be a big emphasis on reasoning and problem solving. Your child will be expected to use 'trial and improvement' to solve problems systematically. Again, homework tasks will reflect this approach.

We will continue to work on topics such as:

Measures—estimating, comparing and measuring mass and capacities, choosing and using standard units (m, cm, kg, litre).

Time: Using units of time (seconds, minutes, hours, days) and knowing the relationships between them; reading the time to the quarter hour.

Shape, position and direction: Knowing the properties of common 2D and 3D shapes, understanding clockwise, rotation and right angles.

Fractions: Finding fractions of shapes and quantities and reading fraction notation.

Science

Topics for this term include:

Human health: How food, exercise and hygiene are important for health.

Plants: Growing plants and finding out what plants need to survive.

Materials: Learning the names of different materials and learning to sort according to their properties.

Plenty of talking and reading always helps to build

knowledge and develop enquiring minds. Please help your child with the relevant vocabulary.



ICT and Computing

In ICT the children will be learning how to use the Internet safely when researching. They will have the opportunity to learn how to navigate websites, find information and make notes.

My Maths and Education City will to be used as a homework supplement.



Please encourage your child to regularly check the school website for updated information, particularly the photographs of events in the school. Our website is updated regularly and is a great way of learning more about the events that happen in school.

Creative Curriculum

During this half term the whole school topic is WATER. Year 2's main focus is **Music** and they will be learning how to play instruments in different ways to copy, create and combine rhythm patterns.

We will also look at water in a wider context, learning the names of different bodies of water and why water is needed for life.



I hope these suggestions will be useful to you. Your co-operation and support is, as always, most appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries and I look forward to meeting with you at Parents' Evening in March.

Kind regards

Mrs Workman