



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2017

Year 3 Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mrs McGuinness

Dear Parents

Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope that you had a happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for your generosity and kind wishes at Christmas. I really appreciate your kindness.

This term Year 3 continue preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion which takes place in May 2017. Father Craig always comments how knowledgeable the children are when he comes to visit them at school. The children are currently preparing for their Caring Mass this coming Sunday and I look forward to seeing you there.

Religious Education



This term Year 3 will be preparing for their next important Sacrament– the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will be exploring how they are in control of the choices they make and ultimately responsible for their decisions. They will explore that making the wrong choice will have a consequence but always forgiveness from God and his unconditional love for them. The children will also explore what true forgiveness means through stories from the Holy Bible such as the Prodigal Son, Zacchaeus and The Unforgiving Servant. They will learn about the importance of forgiveness and how the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Church's celebration of God's forgiveness of our sins. Year 3 will take an active part in the Lenten Services and will learn in detail about Jesus and his last weeks here on earth.

Literacy



This term Year 3 will learn about report writing and the important features of non-chronological reports. Weekly spelling tests will continue with spellings being handed out each Monday ready for testing every Friday. Handwriting continues to have a high focus and the children are practising every day in class.

Reading



Reading continues to progress well. I would like to thank you for your support when encouraging your child to read at home. Home reading diaries are checked daily as it is crucial that your child reads to an adult each evening at home. Reading has a positive impact on their creative writing, spelling and general understanding of the world. There are strong links link between children that read regularly and good academic progress. Children who are proficient readers must be asked questions by you to check that they understand what they have read. This is very important because now that they are reading longer texts they are expected to understand what has happened in the text to be able to discuss it in more detail. I have attached some questions that will enable you to do this with your child. Try to ask them their opinion of the story so far, what they like, dislike and why?

Maths



As discussed in Year 3's recent workshop, mental strategies are very important and these strategies must be practised and understood before they can move onto more formal methods. Learning times tables, number bonds, the inverse operation, partitioning numbers all help your child understand the value of number. Year 3 will also be learning more about shape, measures, time, fractions and money.

Science— Physics

This term the children will be learning about light and shadows. They will discover how light travels in straight lines and understand that light from the sun can be dangerous. They will learn about shadows and how they are formed by a light source being blocked by a solid object. They have already started to use a range of light sources and investigating how light travels. They are developing their skills in predicting what might happen and then investigating to support or challenge their predictions.



T: 0121 429 2900

Email: enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk

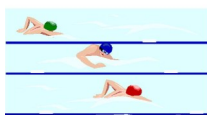
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Creative Curriculum—Design and Technology

The theme this term is **Water**. In Design and Technology Year 3 will be learning about pneumatic systems and how they can make things move. Air or water that is trapped inside something (eg: a balloon or a syringe) can have quite a strong force. They will learn that pneumatics and hydraulics are very closely connected. They will look at a range of everyday objects that use simple pneumatics in order to make them move. This will enable them to develop their skills so that they can make their own simple pneumatic mechanism.

PE—Swimming

This term every Friday afternoon Year 3 will have swimming lessons. Boys must wear swimming trunks—not the Bermuda shorts type and girls must wear a swimming costume—no two piece sets. Girls hair must be tied back and earrings must be removed. They will need a large towel and I suggest a small plastic bag to put their wet costume into. I will be going through this with the children as we prepare for swimming lessons.



Routines

Now that your child is in the Juniors, their bedtime routine is really important. Children at this age need at least 10 hours of sleep each night in order for them to have sufficient rest to enable them to cope with the many challenges in their school day. Reading at bedtime is the best way to help your child feel sleepy. Avoid use of computers and electronic games at least an hour before bedtime so that your child can relax and wind down ready for a good night's sleep.

Homework

Homework will continue to be handed out every Friday for children to complete and return to school the following Wednesday. The children



have nearly completed their first homework book and the standard of work completed is excellent. Thank you for encouraging your child to complete their homework. They should be able to sit quietly and complete the tasks set independently. All homework that is set is aimed at your child's level of learning. It will be consolidating their previous learning or repeating learning that has taken place that week. However, it is very important that they have a quiet space in the home so that they can think clearly and concentrate.

Fresh Drinking Water



Thank you for sending your child into school with fresh drinking water daily. Your child is encouraged to drink as much water throughout the school day as possible as evidence shows that regular re-hydration has a direct link to better learning and aids concentration.

I hope that this information has been helpful to you and once again, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J McGuinness