



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2018

Year 3 Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Miss E Boulton

Dear Parents

Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope that you had a happy and relaxed Christmas. Thank you for your generosity at Christmas, I was extremely touched by the thoughtful gifts and kind words.

## 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. Father Craig always comments how knowledgeable the children are when he comes to visit them at school.

Please ensure your child is prepared for their Collective Worship which takes place on a Tuesday morning. If you need to have another copy of the timetable I am happy to re-issue this. So far the children have led their collective worships very reverently and confidently.

## Literacy

This term Year 3 will learn about play scripts and the important features. Weekly spelling tests will continue with spellings being handed out each Monday ready for testing every Friday. We will be revisiting some spellings set out in the Autumn term to ensure the children have retained the spellings. 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. It is important your child reads the stated amount in their diary so that guided reading sessions can run smoothly. This enables all pupils to be at the same point in the book. Reading books will be changed in school every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The children are also encouraged to read books of their own choice as this can have a positive impact on their creative writing and spelling. 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. I have attached some questions that will enable you to do this with your child.



## Maths

I am absolutely amazed at how well the children have learnt their 3,4,8 times tables along with division facts too. Please continue to practise these at home as the children will be using formal methods for multiplication and division. Year 3 will also be learning more about time, fractions, money and statistics. Maths homework will correspond with what has been taught in school.



## Science

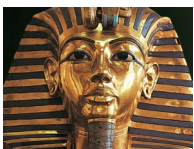
This term the children will be learning about forces and magnets. Throughout this unit the children will be able to identify pushes and pulls as forces and explore how things move on different surfaces. They will find out about attraction and repulsion by magnetic forces and which materials are magnetic. They will develop their skills in predicting what might happen and then investigating to support or challenge their predictions.



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## Creative Curriculum—History and Geography



The theme this term is **Leaders**. In History and Geography this term, Year 3 will have a focus on Ancient Egypt. The children will be starting the topic by looking at where Egypt is on a map in relation to other countries, continents and seas. As a class we will look at the River Nile from a geographical aspect and then its importance to the Ancient Egyptians. The children will then explore aspects of Ancient Egypt such as hieroglyphics, mummification and life as an Egyptian. We will also look at leaders during this time and the impact these people had on Egyptian citizens. Throughout the unit, they will be comparing how Egypt and England have geographical and historical differences and similarities.

## PE—Gymnastics

For the first half of this term, Year 3 will be completing the unit of gymnastics. They will look at how to perform some of the basic body positions in the air, such as star, straight and tucked shapes. They will be performing jumps from low level apparatus, such as benches and learning how to land safely. They will work in groups to create routines and will evaluate their own and their peers performances using these development points for following 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. Try to 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 Monday for children to complete and **return to school on the Friday of the same week**. Mrs McGuinness also sets RE homework on a Tuesday and this is due in on the next Monday. It is important that these homework tasks are in school on the set day so that homework can be prepared for the following week. Thank you for encouraging your child to complete their homework; the standard of work completed is excellent. 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 and 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 am very much looking forward to seeing the children flourish even more in the Spring term. They were a credit you with their work ethic during the Autumn term and I am very hopeful that this will continue.

I hope that this information has been helpful to you and once again, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy 2018.

Thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

*Miss E Boulton*