



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Year 3 Class Newsletter Summer 2017

Class Teacher: Mrs J. McGuinness

Dear Parents
Welcome back after our much needed
Easter break.

Religious Education



Year 3 is now quickly approaching the celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion which will take place on 6th and 13th May.

Thank you for attending the 'Sharing a Meal' service followed by breakfast. What an enjoyable morning it was for us all.

The children will continue to follow their journey of faith preparing for this Sacrament in school and completing their 'silver' books. Regular attendance at Mass is crucial for *all* families at Our Lady of Fatima School as this brings us ever closer to God and our Parish community.

As we discussed in the last Parent's meeting your child will be practising, preparing and understanding *how* and *why* we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ so that they fully understand the reasons *why* we need to attend Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist. Going to Mass plays an integral role to everything we teach here at Our Lady of Fatima School. There are three Masses, 6pm Saturday evening, 9 am and 11 am on Sunday morning. Christ is at the centre of everything we teach your child at Our Lady of Fatima School and I appeal to you to continue to support and encourage your child's faith journey by regular attendance at Mass.

The children will also be learning about the many different books within the Bible and they will be encouraged in class to research parables and stories that they hear in the Gospels. They are currently focusing on the readings from the New Testament and comparing differences between the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



Children's illustrated bibles are very interesting for your child and would make an ideal First Holy Communion gift for your child.

Literacy



The children are now developing their editing skills such as re-reading their writing and finding ways to improve it.

They are expected to proof read their work so that they can make corrections and add any missing punctuation before they hand in their writing for marking. Presentation and neat handwriting is always an important part of any work they complete. Spellings are now carried out during early morning activities and integrated with handwriting. This term the children will be developing their writing skills in play scripts, stories, using paragraphs to organise their writing and dictionary skills.

Reading



Most of the children are reading every night and reading diaries are checked daily by Mrs Wakeman or me. Please make sure you look at your child's reading diary. Very

often important information is attached to your child's diary to remind you of forthcoming events. Also comments are written in your child's diary should they not be reading enough each evening. Reading diaries should be signed each evening to demonstrate that you are supporting your child with reading activities. The reading diary can also be used as a home/school communication tool if parents wish to leave a short message that I can address quickly for them.

Please could I ask that you check the **understanding** of **what** your child reads? At this stage, most children can read fluently, but it is very important to make sure that they understand what they have read. This can be achieved by asking them just one or two questions about the text; this soon establishes exactly what they have understood about the text. I have attached some questions that will support you with this.

Mathematics



Year 3 will be continuing to develop mental and written methods in addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. The children will be problem solving and using the inverse operation to check their answers.

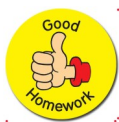
For example:

$$134 + 6 = 140 \rightarrow 140 - 6 = 134$$

$$5 \times 8 = 40 \rightarrow 40 \div 8 = 5$$

Year 3 will also be developing their skills in estimation, division, fractions and shape.

Homework



Thank you for supporting your child to complete their homework. As you will now know, your child's homework is selected for their particular ability.

Their homework in Literacy or Maths will never be new learning. It will always be something that they have either covered that week in class or something that I am reminding them about that they have already covered. Therefore, your child should need very little support from yourselves, except encouragement to complete all activities to the best of their ability.

Should they bring home some research tasks, they may need more support. The recent Our Lady of Fatima appearing to the three children in Portugal was particularly impressive and Mrs van Vliet was most impressed with the beautiful display it created in our classroom. Thank you for your continued interest in and support with your child's learning.

Science



The children will be continuing their topic about magnets by setting up practical investigations and gathering data. They will be using scientific vocabulary and making careful

Observations, whilst being encouraged to ask questions and use a range of scientific enquires to help them find the answer to their questions.

Creative Curriculum



This is a very exciting area for your children this term as we grow ever nearer to celebrating the schools 50th anniversary since it was opened in 1967. As part of the celebration, your children

have been researching and learning about what life was like for a child in 1967. Thank you so much for the many kind offers from parents and grandparents to come into school and talk to the children about their school days.

The children asked our visitors a range of questions to find out what life was like for children and in particular what communication was like. They were very surprised to hear stories of using a neighbour's telephone along the street, using a phone box, having a 'party line' telephone, telegrams, letters from friends or relatives. They were shocked at stories of 'playing out' until it was dark, the very different punishments that existed in schools, pupils going home for lunch, and that people used to watch black and white televisions if they were fortunate to own a television at all. They were very kindly treated to sweets from long ago, flying saucers, cola cubes, pink shrimps, pineapple rock, to name but a few.

They enjoyed watching episodes of Fireball XL5, Thunderbirds, Stingray, Watch with Mother, The Wooden tops and Blue Peter. They also found out more about money from the past and looked at 'old pre-decimalisation coins' 3d, 1d, 6d 2/6d they enjoyed hearing what people used to call the different coins too! 6d—a tanner, 2/6d half a crown, 10/- ten bob, ten bob note, 1/- a bob, etc.



This term Year 3 will be looking at theme tunes from television programmes in the 1960's. They will be focussing on Blue Peter as this programme was revolutionary in the 1960's. It was the first programme to reach out to children who had outgrown 'Watch with Mother'. The BBC realised that there was nothing that related to younger children who wanted to find out about the world and try at home to make different arts and crafts. As Blue Peter is still watched by millions of children today this is an interesting programme to research. There will be visits from a visiting artist who was actually inspired by Blue Peter in the 60's and was awarded one of their prestigious 'Blue Peter' badges! Do any parents/grandparents have an old Blue Peter annual from the 1960's? Or were you awarded a Blue Peter badge? Please let us know.

The school has been invited once again ,to display their work at John Lewis in Grand Central in June in Birmingham. Look out for Year 3's Blue Peter display.

Summer School Uniform

As we are now in the summer term, your child can wear the summer uniform. Many children are already wearing theirs and look really smart. Please ensure that if required, children wear a school sun hat. Fashion caps are not part of school uniform. These can be purchased from the school office. Also in keeping with our school uniform policy girl's hair accessories should be blue to match the uniform. Thank you for your co-operation.

PE Kit

Our PE kit consists of a pair of navy shorts, a white tee shirt and a pair of pumps. Please check your child's pumps as many children have grown over the holiday and may not fit into their pumps. All PE kits must be left in school lockers so that they are readily available. Please make sure that school book bags are used to carry books to and from school as lockers are small and large bags/backpacks are unnecessary and will not fit into the lockers along with a lunch box and PE kit.

PE

The children will be having a dance instructor this term to teach them an exciting dance



routine linked to a piece of music and they will also be developing athletic skills in preparation for our annual Sports' day.

Class visit to see around Birmingham



As part of our anniversary celebrations Year 3 will be taking part in a Birmingham Big Red Bus tour of the City. This will give the children a chance to see around our City by a tour bus. They will be able to observe Birmingham's industrial buildings, canal systems and an opportunity to see how the city has developed over time. They will have an experienced tour guide who will explain many aspects of the city. This will take

place on the morning of Tuesday 23rd May. More details will follow soon.

I hope that this newsletter has been both Informative and helpful.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to come into school to see me.

Kind regards
Mrs J McGuinness