



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Autumn 2017

Class Newsletter

Year 4

Class Teacher: Mrs N Levack

Dear Parents

I hope you had a relaxing summer and are ready for a new school year. The purpose of this newsletter is to outline procedures for the new term and to inform you of the work your child will be covering during the Autumn term.

## Religious Education



Year 4 will learn more about Creation by recalling elements of the Creation stories. They will recognise and understand that they are given talents and will be able to explain reasons for praising God the Creator; their understanding of how they are made in the image and likeness of God. Will be explored and developed.

A large proportion of the R.E curriculum for this term is based on The Old Testament. Year 4 will learn how to find Bible references and will link all their learning to how teachings for the Bible impacts, and is relevant to their lives today.

The children will be involved in whole school events such as the Harvest Service. I hope these events will deepen your child's understanding of the Catholic faith and try to exemplify how small actions and gestures can have a hugely positive impact on others. More details of these events will be made available through the school's monthly newsletter.

A reminder that now that the children have made their First Holy Communion, it is a good opportunity to attend weekend Mass regularly at Our Lady of Fatima Church so that they can receive the Eucharist on a weekly basis. Please encourage good attendance at church so that the children can develop and strengthen their relationship with God and the teachings of the church. Please also encourage your child to volunteer to read at the 11.00 am Mass when it is Year 4's turn. Father Craig is very keen to get to know as many families as possible within the Parish in his role as Parish Priest and will have a very warm welcome for each and everyone of you.



Year 4's Class Saint this year will be Saint Rita. She is the Patron Saint of Impossible Cases. Her works and deeds are very relevant in our lives today as we all find different situations difficult to cope with and some challenges in our daily life can appear quite daunting. Year 4 will be learning more about her life throughout the year and celebrating her feast day in May.

Each child will have a turn taking the Class Prayer Bag home. The resources inside should encourage your

child to write a prayer which will be shared in class. We will also be holding an INSPIRE workshop shortly based on Catholic Life, prayer and child led worship. More details will follow soon.

## Presentation of Work

In Year 4 excellent presentation is expected in all work, whether it is completed at school or at home. Please encourage children to complete all homework to a high standard. For Literacy homework this means writing neatly and accurately and in Maths this means ensuring numbers are formed correctly and working out is **clearly set out**.

## Homework



Homework will be given out on a **Monday** and must be completed and returned to school by the following **Friday**.

Homework will consist of a variety of activities which will require some adult supervision and guidance. Please ensure all homework is completed on time and to a high standard, particularly focussing on handwriting and presentation. Although we live in a very hi-tech society, legible, well written handwriting is essential. At this stage all children should be forming their letters correctly and the right way round. If your child is still reversing letters I would ask you to spend 10 minutes each day practising until this habit has been cracked. By the end of the year all children will be expected to be able to write in flowing joined (cursive) writing.

Please indicate in the homework book if your child has required support to complete their homework.

Many children are confident with some of their times tables. I would appreciate your support to practise times tables regularly at home, so that the children learn all times tables up to and including X12 'off by heart'. Sound knowledge and quick recall of times tables is vital in all the Maths that we cover from now on. It is essential your child is challenged to learn these at school **and at home** so they can access all areas of the Year 4 Maths curriculum. When your child is in Year 6 part of the end of Key Stage national assessments will include a specific times tables test. As yet we do not know the format of this assessment, but we do know it will be a key part of the assessment procedure.

## Writing

The children will write for a variety of purposes and for different audiences this term including:



- fables
- instructions
- explanations
- poetry including image poetry
- fairy stories
- letter writing

Important grammar, sentence and punctuation skills will be taught throughout written work; this will also help extend spoken vocabulary. At this stage it is vital that children are saying words correctly; please do correct any errors regularly. We have a "meaty" curriculum to cover in English including fronted adverbial phrases, conjunctions, correct use of inverted commas along with the use of a variety of prefixes and suffixes, to name a few. For children to meet and exceed at the expected standard, they really need to be independent writers using all their learning from previous years during the course of their work.

## Reading



Reading books will be changed frequently. It is important that I maintain regular communication with all parents and so I ask that you **sign your child's reading diary each night**. Some books may take a couple of weeks to read; this is perfectly acceptable. I do ask that you sit with your child to hear your child read every night. Continue to ask your child probing questions about their book to ensure they really are developing their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Any new vocabulary needs to be explained or your child needs to be encouraged to use a dictionary to find out the meaning of new words. In Year 4 children may bring home books of their own choice to read. Please support your child by showing an interest in the topics they enjoy even if it is not your most chosen topic!

## Library

Year 4 will visit the library on a weekly basis.

Most of the time the children will have free choice to choose a book. Occasionally I will ask the children to select a book on a particular topic as part of a class or homework activity. Please spend time reading your child's book with them during the week and check they have it ready to be returned every week. We are experiencing high losses in the library due to unreturned books. Please remind your child to respect all books.

## Mathematics

In Maths this term the focus will be on the following:

- place value and ordering numbers.
- understanding multiplication and division and developing a deeper understanding of written methods.



- understanding mathematical vocabulary and solving real life problems involving all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division).
- developing understanding of decimal numbers, recognising the value of the digits.
- Consolidating and developing written methods for addition and subtraction
- solving problems involving measures, shape and time. Time will be taught using a digital clock (12 and 24 hour) along with an analogue clock
- Using a mathematical compass safely and accurately to produce circles with specific radii and circumferences.

## Physics and Chemistry

Year 4 will learn about electrical circuits in Physics followed by states of matter in Chemistry. I will include some practical homework activities to support these subjects. I hope I can rely on your support to spend time completing these practical tasks.

## P.E

Year 4 will have weekly P.E. lessons and as far as is reasonably possible these will take place outdoors until the weather deteriorates for winter. Please refer to September's school newsletter and the school website for a full description of the P.E kit. **It is vital that earrings are removed for all P.E. lessons.** Please check your child leaves their earrings at home, as it causes distress if they get lost. It is essential that children participate in all physical opportunities in lessons to continue developing a love for an active lifestyle. It is so easy nowadays for even young children to develop sedentary life styles. The medical profession is constantly reinforcing the need for regular activity, we as a school are also continuing to promote healthy lifestyles as best we can.

## Creative Curriculum



Mrs Iles will teach Creative Curriculum in Year 4 on a weekly basis along with Music skills. Initially the children will be learning about the legacy of the Roman Empire in a history based unit of work with close links to Geography.

## Queries/Concerns

I am available after school most days should you have any concerns or questions. Alternatively you can write me a note and send this to school with your child. I hope you all feel you know me well enough to approach me about any aspect of your child's school life. Appointments may also be made through the school office.

I look forward to meeting you again shortly during Parents' Evenings.

Please do refer to the **school website** regularly for updates on events being held at school.

Mrs N Levack