

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Autumn 2016

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.



Homework

Homework will be given out on a **Monday** and needs to 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 focus on handwriting. Although we live in a very hi-tech society, 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 15 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'.

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**.

Religious Education



Year 4 will learn more about Creation by recalling elements of the Creation stories. They will recognise and understand that we are given talents and explain reasons

for praising God the Creator and understanding how we are made in the image and likeness of God. We will be involved in whole school events such as the Harvest Festival. I hope these events will deepen your child's understanding of our Catholic faith and try to exemplify how our 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, the 11.00 am Family Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church is an opportunity for them to 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 meet as many new families within the Parish in his new 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 Jude. He



is the Patron Saint of Impossible Causes and Hope. His works and deeds are very relevant in our lives today with so much we see on the News, and learning more about St Jude's life will give the children a deeper appreciation of how lucky we are, along with an awareness that prayers of intercession can be a powerful comfort throughout our lives. We will be learning more about his life throughout the year and celebrating his feast day shortly.

Each child will have a turn at taking the Class Prayer Bag home. The new resources inside should encourage your child to write a prayer which will be shared in class.

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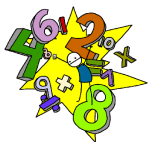
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P.E

Year 4 will be taught tennis skills on Tuesday afternoons with Stuart and swimming on Friday afternoons. 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.

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
- We will begin to use a mathematical compass safely and accurately to produce circles with specific radii and circumference.

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 encourage your child to use a dictionary to find out the meaning of new words.

Library

We 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.



Writing

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

Fables, instructions and explanations, poetry, fairy stories, letter writing and image poetry.

Important grammar, sentence and punctuation skills will be taught throughout our written work; this will also help extend spoken vocabulary.

Physics and Chemistry



We will be learning 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.

Mrs Dighton

Mrs Dighton will work in Class 4 each week and teach discrete computing skills and the Creative Curriculum. In the first instance the children will be learning about rivers in a Geography based unit in Creative Curriculum.

Queries/Concerns

If at any point you have any concerns or questions please let me know. I am available after school most days. 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.

I look forward to meeting you again later in September during Parents' Evenings.

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

Mrs N Levack

Year 4 Teacher

