



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2018

Year 4 Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mrs N. Levack

Happy New Year!

I would like to inform you of all the exciting things that your child will be learning this term.

## Attendance and Punctuality



Well done to all the children in Year 4 who have excellent attendance and punctuality.

We encourage the children to come into school from 8.45 a.m. so they are settled and ready for a prompt start at 8.55 a.m. Arriving late at school does not make a good start to the day. Every minute counts in school.

Mrs van Vliet is monitoring both attendance and punctuality very closely as some families are developing a relaxed attitude towards our morning routine. Please refrain from taking mini breaks mid term; every day counts at school.

## Religious Education

Please remember that Father Craig is keen to welcome families at any of the weekend Masses at Our Lady of Fatima Church. It is a great time to come together to meet Jesus in the Eucharist. Thank you to the children who regularly altar serve or volunteer to read at Mass. Please encourage your child to offer to read when it is Year 4's turn. It is good for them to be involved in the life of the parish particularly as we will be looking at different ways of being a messenger of God in their R.E. lessons.



This term they will be finding out how God chose Moses and David for special tasks. The children will learn about how God protected His people and they will gain a clearer understanding of the Psalms of David. Year 4 will also be investigating the importance of and reasons why the Oil of Chrism is used in the Sacraments and how they can follow and respond to God's calling in their everyday lives.

During Lent Year 4 will learn the reasons associated with the Church's practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. They will discover how the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's gift of forgiveness that He freely gives.

## Collective Worship

Following on from the INSPIRE workshop in October, many children have led very meaningful Collective Worship in class. The topic your child chooses needs to be something they are passionate about or it may be a current topic in international or local news, worthy of sharing with the class. During the planning it is essential that your child includes a close link with at least one passage from the Bible as it will support the developing links of prayer and teachings from the Bible. If your child has misplaced their planning sheets for Collective Worship, do remind them to ask me for replacements.

**Diary date:** Year 4 will be leading a whole school Assembly on Thursday 25th January 2018 which coincides with the Feast of the conversion of Saint Paul.

## Creative Curriculum

The whole school theme this half term is 'Leaders'. Year 4 has a Geography focus, with aspects of History for this topic. The title of our topic is Pompeii. Mrs Iles will continue to teach the Creative Curriculum work on a weekly basis in class along with Music skills.

## English – Writing

During this term, Year 4 will learn about the features of a wide variety of genres of writing including play scripts and fairy tales. Your child will be planning, drafting, re-drafting, evaluating and editing their writing in order to fully understand the structure and style of the genre being studied.



## Shared Writing

Shared writing is something that I will be teaching regularly with Year 4. This gives me an opportunity to model handwriting, punctuation, spellings, grammar and improved vocabulary choices so that your child understands the importance of editing and re-drafting as they write.

## Guided reading

Reading fluency and comprehension are very important. To develop these skills your child will be reading in class daily.

Some days your child will be reading independently within a small group or they may be completing a short comprehension task that is either; linked to their book or a written task to develop their understanding of texts and the structure of different genres of writing.

It is important that I hear your child read every week and have the opportunity to ask them probing questions to develop key reading skills.

## Shared Reading



Shared reading is crucial to children so that they *hear* a range of stories *read to them* by an adult. Shared reading exposes your child not only to the text, but *how to read with fluency and expression*. It also gives children an opportunity to simply *enjoy a story* promoting a *love of reading*. We have a 'class reader' which we 'dip into' for short regular bursts throughout the week. I have a passion for reading and really do believe it opens a new world to children, whether they prefer fiction, so they can get lost in fantasy worlds or non-fiction so they can develop their knowledge of a subject.

Daily reading means that every day your child will be reading their **home reading** book. Please make sure that your child reads their home reading book **every evening with an adult and that their diary is signed.** I will be checking reading diaries alongside the reading monitors and books will be changed regularly. It is often beneficial for children to see and hear their parents read so if it means you and your child read alternate pages of their chosen book do this, it can be a special time spent together at a

convenient time each evening. Part of the home school agreement with each family is that you will continue to support your child with daily reading. If you have any concerns or questions regarding daily reading at home please make an appointment with me.

**Library:** We will continue visiting the school library on a weekly basis. Your child has free choice in the library and will choose a book of interest to them which you may consider appears too hard or too easy for them. It is their choice and they may have a reason for choosing it. Some children might repeatedly choose the same book. Again, this is not a concern, so long as they develop their love of reading. Do check your child returns their book on a weekly basis so that it can be changed.

Try to make use of your local library; children can borrow up to 8 books for four weeks for free. Allow your child to choose their own books as they are more likely to read them, rather than if an adult has selected them. Our trip to Quinton library was most successful last term, I do hope parents are allocating time to go to the library regularly with children to make use of this amazing free facility.

## Mathematics

Over the next half-term Year 4 will be covering the following areas: Number and place value, including fractions, decimals and money, addition and subtraction including mental and written methods. The children will be using vertical and column methods to add and subtract as well as developing mental methods and problem solving skills in length, weight, bar charts, time position and direction. Please keep referring to **analogue and digital clocks** and involve your child in time telling along with how long until...type situations so they develop time telling skills. The majority of Year 4 can read digital clocks but not all can read analogue clocks. Can I suggest that I pads, I phones, etc have analogue clocks set on the screens as I know every child will then see these regularly!

Year 4 will also continue to develop and use inverse operations in order to check and prove calculations are correct and to solve problems.



By the end of Year 4 all children need to know times tables **up to 12 x 12**. Use car journeys or family walks to reinforce these essential basic skills. If parents would like a copy of all the times tables, please let me know in writing and I will provide this for you to hang up at home so they can be seen clearly.

### **Biology**

Year 4 will continue to learn about humans and animals, this will include recreating a working digestive system: an activity that always proves to be very popular.

Year 4 will also learn about sound– vibration, patterns in pitch and volume of sound and sounds getting fainter as the distance from the source increases. They will be visiting Birmingham Symphony Hall on Thursday 1st February 2018 to support this unit of learning. Details of the trip will be distributed shortly.

### **P.E.**



As you are aware, Year 4 will be going swimming each Thursday morning this term. Please check that items of clothing that your child brings to the pool are all labelled as it can be distressing for children (and adults) when items “disappear” during changing. I also ask that your child packs their swimming bag at home so they are able to re pack it after the lesson. I will help tie up ties for those still struggling with this but beyond that, all children are expected to dry themselves and dress efficiently. If children are well enough to be in school, it is assumed that they are well enough to swim and so there is an expectation that they attend swimming lessons every week. Swimming is a life saving skill as well as being a fabulous leisure time activity. Please do reinforce this with your child.

### **ICT / Computing**

We continue to remind all children of the importance of e-safety and how they can keep themselves safe when working online as well as being respectful to others. Please do play an active role in monitoring what your child does on the internet. **All children should be supervised when using the internet.** Be aware that computer games have age ratings which are in place for a reason. Be vigilant and explain to your child why

certain games are suitable and some are not.

In class we regularly use the iPads for cross curricular work in particular reading. Oxford reading Owl is a superb resource with a library full of books available. This is a website which can be accessed at home for free. As with all other websites it requires adult supervision during set up and daily use. Do make use of this as the children are familiar with it from regular use in school.

Please refer to the school website and letters sent home via book bags so you are kept fully informed of activities and events in school.

**Mrs N Levack**



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