



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Spring 2017

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 so my apologies for the length of this newsletter.

Attendance and Punctuality



Well done to all the children in Year 4 who have excellent attendance and punctuality. We won the attendance cup in the second half of the Autumn term. *Let's see if we can win it again.*

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.

Religious Education

Please remember that the **Family Mass at 11 a.m. on Sundays** at Our Lady of Fatima Church is a great time to come together to meet Jesus in the Eucharist. Thank you to the children who regularly 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 Year 4 have been 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 we can follow and respond to God's calling in our everyday lives. During Lent Year 4 will learn the reasons associated with the Church's practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during this important season. They will

discover how the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's gift of forgiveness that He freely gives.

Collective worship

All the children have already led class Collective Worship; please refer to the timetable (in homework books) so your child knows when it is their next turn. The topic your child chooses needs to be something they are passionate about or may be a current topic in international or local news, worthy of sharing with the class. If your child has misplaced their planning and evaluation sheets for Collective Worship, do remind them to ask me for replacements.

Creative Curriculum

The whole school theme this half term is 'Water'. Year 4 has a **History focus** for this topic. They will be looking at the reasons for, and the results of, exploration of the world by people in the sixteenth century and its impact on sailors, settlers and indigenous people.

English – Writing

During this half-term Year 4 will learn about the features of Myths and Legends, non chronological reports, recounts and list poems and Kennings. 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 they are learning.



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. Mr O'Connor will also teach a weekly lesson on grammar, punctuation and spelling.

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.

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 their teacher. 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 in order to promote a love of reading. Please make sure that your child reads their home reading book **every evening with an adult and that their diary is signed.** This will be checked daily by 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. If you have any concerns or questions regarding daily reading at home please make an appointment with me to discuss the situation.

Library: Our allocated library slot in the school library is Tuesday. 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. Mr Bagwell is currently arranging a class trip for us to visit Quinton library later this term. Details to follow.

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 develop an understanding of inverse operation in order to check calculations and solve simple equations.

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.



Physics – working scientifically

Electricity

This half term the children will develop their knowledge and understanding by creating circuits with lamps and switches. They will further their investigative and enquiry skills by understanding the signs and symbols used in electricity, along with developing a basic understanding of electrical circuits in a home environment and a school building. They will also develop an understanding of insulators and conductors in electricity.

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.

P.E.



Year 4 will work with Michelle, who will lead dance lessons this half term every Wednesday. After half term they will work with the large apparatus to develop gymnastic skills.

All children need to have a P.E. kit in school at all times. If they are taken home for any reason please return them promptly. It often causes distress if a child does not have their kit as it is not always possible to find suitable sized kit for children to wear during lessons.

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. **No child should be left unsupervised 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.

Mr O'Connor will teach a weekly computing lesson with Year 4. Sometimes this will be class based using the I pads and some lessons will be taught in the ICT suite.

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

