



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Year 4 Class Newsletter Summer 2018

Class Teacher: Mrs N. Levack

Welcome back to school and I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter break.

It was lovely to meet with you all during Parents' Evening in March. I am grateful for your continued support. It is a pleasure to see how the children have continued to progress in so many ways since first teaching them in Year 1.

Our class attendance is impressive, **but we can still improve**. We are on a mission to win the attendance trophy! Attendance is essential to maximise every learning opportunity.

Sunday Mass



Please remember the importance of bringing your child to Sunday Mass. Father Craig would like to see an increase in the number of children and families who

regularly attend Mass. His sermons explain the readings in a simple way and link to our everyday lives. Please encourage your child to volunteer to read at the 11.00 am Sunday Mass– it is one way that they can serve the community. It is lovely that many children from Year 4 also support the parish by altar serving at the various Masses during each weekend. Year 4 will attend the 10.00 am Mass at the church on Tuesday 1st May 2018. You are most welcome to join us.

Religious Education



This term Year 4 will understand more about the true meaning of the resurrection of Christ. We will then be learning about Pentecost and how the gifts of the Holy Spirit transformed the lives of the Apostles and enabled them to go out and share the Good News. Year 4 will be learning about the Church as a community and understanding how Catholic faith is spread throughout the world. The children will understand more fully about the special role that priests have and how they too, have a responsibility, as they try to follow in the footsteps of Christ. A great deal of our work will centre

around the effect events from the Bible have on our own lives. As the children relate to this, they will develop a deeper understanding of their faith and the important part it plays in their words and actions. They will develop the ability to ask questions related to personal experiences and hear about the experiences of others.

English – Writing.

Year 4 will continue to develop creative writing skills in order to increase vocabulary and stamina when writing longer pieces of work. The children will learn how emotive language, rhetorical questions and the language of persuasion is developed. They will continue with their new approach to teaching writing "Talk 4 Writing". This proved popular last term and produced a noticeable improvement in the children's written work.

Reading

Group reading in class ensures that adults can explore your child's understanding of a text in greater detail. A range of questions are asked to make sure they understand the meaning of what they are reading. This encourages the children to make predictions and to understand why the author has used particular words for effect.



Daily home reading is essential; however, please encourage your child to read aloud independently to you, but then ask them a few questions about what they have read. **It is not enough that they have simply read specific pages, they need you to ask them one or two questions to check their understanding of what they have read.** Year 4 has a system of reading monitors, where individuals monitor home reading **along with staff**. I hope peer support in this way will encourage the few children who are currently resisting reading for pleasure. The children need to continue with daily reading summaries in their reading diaries; these are expected to be about five or six sentences.

Mathematics

Year 4 will continue to develop their confidence with subtraction, addition, multiplication and division.



They will continue to develop mental and written methods. They will learn about the relationship between fractions and decimal numbers. The children will also learn about angles and how to measure them accurately using a protractor, including how to read missing angles. They will continue to reason, so that skills are developed and transferred to skills in real life situations. Weekly mental maths tests take place as well as weekly times tables challenges. It is essential that times tables are learnt **off by heart**. Please support your child when maths homework is set; they need to show all working out and talk through the methods used.

Chemistry and Biology

In Biology Year 4 will investigate Humans and Living Things. The children will learn about habitats and lifecycles. They will develop their understanding of how different environments change over time causing a threat to a range of habitats. Skills developing the children's ability to set up investigations and explain their findings will be taught. A balance of recorded and practical work will be completed, based on the belief that a "hands on" practical approach is the best way of developing a clearer understanding.

Creative Curriculum

This half term's theme is Sport and Leisure with an emphasis on teamwork. Mrs Iles will lead these lessons every Wednesday. The second half of the term will be based on the Seaside and will incorporate a design aspect of work.

Computing



Year 4 will continue to use a variety of new Apps to develop their technology skills. Along with these they will look at composing and publishing for different purposes. I hope to also include opportunities for touch typing as many children are very proficient with thumb action on controls, but not so confident when typing for extended pieces of writing.

PE

P.E. lessons will be based outdoors and will focus on athletic



type activities with the culmination being Sports' Day in July. Please check your child has their full school P.E. kit along with a pair of pumps that are clearly named.

I am eternally optimistic that we will have plenty of sunny days between now and the end of the summer term. With this in mind, please check your child has a labelled blue school hat/ cap and remembers to bring a thin waterproof coat to school each day just in case of a shower of rain. School sun hats and caps are part of school uniform which ensures that all children are smartly dressed. Fashion caps are not to be worn. As the weather becomes sunnier, please apply liberal amounts of sun cream on your child before coming to school and do check your child continues to bring a water bottle each day. The class is very well set up for drinks as there is a good system in place where bottles are easily accessed and re-filled throughout the day due to the diligence of the bottle monitors. All bottles need to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Important dates for your diaries

Please carefully read the monthly newsletter which includes diary dates of forthcoming events. The website is also an invaluable source of information should the newsletters be misplaced at any point.

www.olfatima.bham.sch.uk

If you ever have anything you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to make an appointment. I am usually able to meet with parents on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 3.40pm.

Mrs N Levack