



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Year 4 Class Newsletter Summer 2017

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 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.

Religious Education

This term Year 4 will understand more about the true meaning of the resurrection of Christ. They 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. They will be looking at 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 be finding out about advertisements and the strategies used to entice and persuade the consumer. They will also learn about stories from other cultures, chronological reports, nonsense poetry and information texts. Please encourage your child to read poetry. There are many fabulous poetry books in the school library and in Year 4's classroom. I see many of them being read during the day and hope you find time to share the humour of nonsense poems with your child. Janet and Alan Ahlberg along with Spike Milligan have a fine collection to start off with. Please ask at your local library if you would like help as librarians are able to show an even greater variety of poems and books on a variety of topics.



Polite note– Please let your child choose books from the library. Books chosen by themselves will be books they are likely to be interested in, so hopefully they will be more inclined to read them.

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 them to make predictions and to understand why the author has used particular words for effect.



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Daily home reading is essential; **however**, please encourage your child to read 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.**

We have 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.

Mathematics

Year 4 will continue to grow in 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 and 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. I will send home examples of the tasks set which demonstrate the methods used as it can be different from the way we might have been taught when we were at school.



Chemistry and Biology

This term the children will be completing Physics topic followed by Biology on Humans and Living Things. The children will be learning 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" approach is the best way of developing a clearer understanding.

Creative Curriculum

This half term's theme is "patterns from the environment". Children will learn many new skills as they develop the ability to sketch observational drawings and incorporate these into their artwork by creating repeating patterns and prints.



During the second half of the summer term Year 4 will be making garlic bread in our D&T work. They will be harvesting onions and garlic (which they planted in the Autumn) ready for this cooking and making the dough from scratch.

Computing

This Term Year 4 will be developing skills in digital literacy by designing and creating their own 3D models. They will also learn how to use spreadsheets to capture weather data before predicting and recording their own weather forecast.



PE

P.E. lessons will be based outdoors and will focus on tag rugby. We are fortunate to have such a huge field and I intend to maximise the time spent there on Thursday afternoons. Please check your child has their full school P.E. kit along with a pair of pumps that are clearly named. If it is slightly cooler, children can wear tracksuits for P.E.



Please remember it is not a fashion show and tracksuits need to be practical for physical movement. The same applies to trainers, if worn, check they offer support around the ankle and are not fashion trainers.

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. 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. As a class we are very well set up for drinks as we have a good system where bottles are easily accessed 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 go missing at any point. www.fatima.bham.sch.uk

Year 4 is a wonderful cohort of children with an abundance of talents and endearing personalities. Many members of staff comment on positive acts of kindness that they see around school from members of Year 4. This is superb to hear and really reflects the maturity of each child. I am truly enjoying teaching each and every member of the class and believe that the ethos of the class: *'to respect one another and allow each other to learn'* is also a reflection of our supportive parents.

If you ever have anything you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Mrs N Levack