



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

Autumn 2016

Year 6

Class Newsletter

Class Teacher: Mr Bagwell

Dear Parents

I hope you enjoyed the Summer break. As the children start to settle, I hope to encourage you to continue supporting your child in what is a most important year. Hopefully the children will take on their new roles in Year 6 with pride, and be able to carry out their 'responsibilities' around school with a mature attitude which is reflected in all aspects of their school life this year.

Religious Education



This term Year 6 will study the Story of the People of God and the Followers of Christ. If the children complete any further research at home they are more than welcome to bring it in and share it with the class.

This is a very special year for the children in Year 6 as towards the end of this year they will make the Sacrament of Confirmation and so it is even more important that they attend Mass regularly to develop and strengthen their relationship with God. Our new Parish Priest, Father Craig, will be very pleased to see the children at the Family Mass on Sundays at 11 am. Please encourage your child to volunteer to read at Mass when it is Year 6's turn.

Additionally, your child will have the chance to take the Class Prayer Bag home. They will be asked to write a prayer and help organise family prayer time using the resources inside the Prayer Bag. Please also assist them in completing the evaluation form.

Year 6's Class Saint is the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, St Chad. Throughout the year they will learn more about the life of St Chad.

Mathematics

In Maths this term the focus will be on the following:

- Place value and decimal numbers
- Written calculations for addition
- Angles and shape
- Fractions
- Solving problems involving measures, including time.



Literacy

This term Year 6 will cover a varied programme which will include Reading, Writing, EGPS (English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) plus Speaking and Listening. The children will look at a number of writing genres including:

- Mystery stories
- Argument and debate
- Recounts
- Instructions
- Classic poems

Within these lessons important grammar, sentence and punctuation skills will be taught, such as developing an understanding of dashes and commas to clarify meaning, the function of semi-colons and colons, and the use of passive voice.

As a school, we are trying hard to raise the standards of presentation and handwriting in all subjects. To do this all children need a decent ink-pen with which they feel comfortable; I would like to encourage usage and familiarity so they are accustomed to writing swiftly as the SATs have strict time limits.

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Science

Year 6 will learn about two topics in Science this term. In Biology during the Animals topic, they will explore the structure of the heart and lungs, the double circulation system through the lungs and the rest of the body, and answer the questions:

- How does exercise affect pulse rate?
- Why is exercise good for us?
- What can harm the heart and lungs?



Later in the term in Physics, Year 6 will identify sources of light and revise facts that light travels in straight lines and opaque objects form shadows.

Computing



In computing the children will be planning a new app. In summary, they will learn about the capabilities of smartphones, think of a problem that a smartphone or tablet could solve, and then pitch the idea for the new app. The children will then work collaboratively to develop a smartphone or tablet app.

Creative Curriculum

The whole school theme this half-term is 'Journeys'. Year 6 will cover a History topic for this unit. As part of this topic they will be learning how travel affected our local area in 18th and 19th centuries.



P.E

Until further notice, Year 6 will have PE on a Thursday. Weather permitting these lessons will take place outside, so please ensure that your child brings appropriate warm clothing. They will be improving their fielding and striking skills. This is in addition to the swimming sessions on Friday afternoons.

Homework

In preparation for children receiving daily homework at Secondary school, homework tasks will now be distributed three times per week. Homework will consist of:

1. English activity (distributed on a Friday)
2. Maths activity (distributed on a Monday)
3. 20 spellings (distributed on a Wednesday)

Due dates will be clearly marked for each piece of work. Your child is also expected to read for **at least 20 minutes** at home each day. Please sign their reading record daily. Many thanks; your support is greatly appreciated.

Attendance and Punctuality

Year 6 will be aiming to win the attendance trophy this term, so please encourage your child to come to school on time everyday. Statistics prove that good attendance leads to greater learning outcomes.



Walking to and from school

Increasing independence will mean a number of children will start to walk to and from school. If this is the case, I will require arrangements in writing so that we can keep this for our records. **Only** children walking to and from school should require a mobile phone. This will be handed in every morning so that it can be locked away safely. It is then your child's responsibility to collect it at the end of the day.

I look forward to seeing you at Parents' Evening towards the end of September and again on 29th November for Year 6's Inspire Workshop.

I am available after school most days if you have any queries or concerns.

Mr Bagwell

