



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull

St Mary's Explorers - Year R

Spring 2018

Happy New Year!! It's is great to be back, the children have told me all about their Christmas holidays, it sounds like you all had fun! I have been really impressed with the children's enthusiasm on their return to school and we have got straight back into learning. Our new topic is 'Peering into the Past', we plan to visit the past through story and imaginative play. We will be reflecting particularly on the history of the railways and trains.

<p>Communication, Language and Literacy: This term we will be listening to story with a train theme. We start with the story "Oi get off our Train! Which leads nicely onto research about endangered species using Non Fiction books and the internet to research these countries further. 20 minute discreet phonics teaching will continue as we work through the digraphs and trigraphs in Phase 3 (2/3 letters making 1 sound). The children will have twice weekly opportunities to apply handwriting and phonic skills in Guided writing activities. We also look forward to lots of independent writing in Let's Explore time.</p>	<p>Maths: Number and Shape, Space and Measures</p> <p>We will be learning to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise and order numbers to 20. • finding 1 more and 1 less than a given number. • finding the total number of objects in 2 groups. • adding using objects. • subtracting using objects. • learning to write our numbers. • Compare weight and capacity • recognise different coins. • add 1p coins together. • recognise 2D and 3D shapes 	<p>Understand the World: We will be learning about the natural world through regular welly walks. We will be comparing our own environment with those of other countries. We will be taking part in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch. The children will think about the importance of looking after the natural world and will be learning ways to do this.</p> <p>RE: The children will learn that we are all special in different ways. They will learn that Jesus was a special person.</p>
<p>Physical Development: The children will continue to work on their gross motor skills in PE. Their focus is on multi skills this term. In class the children will continue to have opportunities to work on fine motor skills including regular</p>	<p>Topic: Around the World in 80 Days We will be visiting other countries in our small world tuff tray - being introduced to the animals that live in these countries and the natural habitats that they live in. We will be cooking some foods from other countries and sharing it together. This will include attempting to eat with chop sticks. We will be listening to traditional music from other countries.</p>	

handwriting sessions.

We will be looking at artwork from around the world.

How you can help your child:

Reading:

Every child will read as part of a small group in class once a week in addition to being heard individually. Hearing your child read at home is really important as this regular practice will help them to progress both in their reading and writing. When reading with your child encourage them to sound out words and then blend them together. At the back of their reading book is a bookmark with tricky words on it. These words must be learnt so that the children can recognise them in their reading. Please record in your child's reading diary when you have worked on reading at home. Now that the children have reading books, they are able to work towards our reading certificates. If they manage to read 4 times a week for ten weeks then they receive a certificate in celebration assembly.

Writing:

At this early stage of writing we encourage have a go writing in school, the children attempt to write words by saying all the sounds they can hear in a word and trying to write them down. It is great for children to see adults modelling writing - let them help you with your shopping list, notes to family members or even when you write in their reading record. It's lovely to see examples of children's writing that they have done at home - this can be done through Tapestry or by bringing writing into school.

Spelling: If you would like to practise spelling at home you could use the key word cards that come home and see if your child can remember how to spell them.

Maths: Have some fun with Maths at home - Can the children count the number of steps up to bed? Can they find numbers around the house? Can they count out the right cutlery to lay the table? Can the children share out treats equally? Get the children to pay for items in a shop using a few coins.

PE kit:

Please make sure your child has his/her PE kit in school on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. This should include a pair of shorts, a t-shirt, and daps/trainers. Now the weather is a lot colder you may wish to purchase a hooded PE top from the uniform shop. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure their earrings are removed or taped on these days.

Outdoor Clothing

Please ensure your child has a coat in school for outdoor play and learning. If you have waterproof trousers and wellies they would be great for our welly walks and mud kitchen.

It's really great to see evidence of the children's home learning on tapestry. It's easy to add a photo and comment using a mobile or tablet.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come in and see me.

Many thanks,

Mrs Ellie Myatt