



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull

Spring Term 2020

St Francis' Class

Welcome to the Spring Term in Years 3 and 4. Our second creative curriculum topic, 'Peering into the Past', will focus on the Ancient Egyptians and I am looking forward to our first **school trip to The Tutankhamun Exhibition in Dorchester on Tuesday 28th January**. Please enjoy reading the overview below of this term's learning. I will regularly update Class Dojo with all the different activities that we do in class so you will be able to keep up to date with what we are doing.

English:

Our literacy lessons will be closely linked to our creative curriculum topic of Ancient Egypt. We will be reading *Ma-at's Feather* by Juliet Desailly. This book will be used to inspire the children in all their different forms of **writing**. The children have already written a great response to Oliver Jeffers' book *We are Here* and combined their character writing with excellent art work too! They will write a letter, setting description and instructions. After half term there will opportunities for an information texts. Throughout there will be a constant focus on vocabulary building especially in trying to use the words we learn each week.

Spelling (including phonics), Punctuation and Grammar.

In school we teach the rules, strategies and conventions of spelling, punctuation and Grammar as outlined for each year group in the National Curriculum. This term we have already focussed on subordinate clauses and the present perfect tense. We will build up the childrens' different use of apostrophes and use of paragraphs.

Guided Reading

Children have guided reading sessions throughout the week in groups that are appropriate to their reading ability. These are based around the Bug Club Scheme that your children can also log onto and read at home too. They will be taught to read a range of different genres and will learn the skills of decoding, information retrieval, inferring, deducing and studying a text in depth. We will also read texts that are related to our topic.

Maths:

Where possible, our maths learning will be placed into the meaningful context of our topics and our everyday lives. So, in connection to we will be using measure and shape.

In our daily maths lessons this term, we will cover the following topics:

- Measure – including area and perimeter which will be connected to our Egypt topic.
- Fractions and decimals will be a major focus during this Spring term.
- Mental and written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

Times Tables 2, 5, 10, 4, and 3s as appropriate and for Year 4s there will be an expectation that they are increasingly confident with all of the tables up to 12x table.

Reasoning in maths will be encouraged by starting some lessons off with a problem to solve. Problem solving and investigating activities will include all of the areas listed above.

RE:

We will continue to teach RE using the Catholic RE scheme, 'God Matters' with extra guidance from our Diocese (Plymouth). We will be covering the following topics:

- Christmas and Epiphany
- Revelations
- Lent
- Holy Week
- The other world religion we will consider will be Judaism

Science:

We will be focussing on Circle of Life which focusses on the digestive system and teeth. This will be followed by This Planet Rocks which is focussed on fossils and being rock detectives,

DT:

The children will be planning and building their own shoebox tombs including all the objects made with clay. If you have a **shoebox** at home it would be great if your child could bring one in over the next 2 weeks.

PE:

Football – the children need to wear shin pads and warm clothes for this session. If the children have football boots they may wear them.

Gym Sequences based on moving around a smooth transition between different movements

Dance which will have a topic theme

Hockey – the children need to wear warm clothes for this session,

PE kit in school on:

- **Wednesday and Thursday** for PE lessons.
- Any day that your child has a sports club.

Don't forget, if your child has pierced ears, please ensure that their earrings are removed or taped on these days.

Other main curriculum areas are listed below:

PSHE - following the Rainbow Scheme of work

Geography will focus on the biome of deserts and the location of Egypt and how physical features affect the way people live.

History – our main focus will be on the way of life in Ancient Egypt, famous people including Tutankhamun and Cleopatra.

ICT Including dance mat typing, creating e mails and word documents, and spread sheets.

Music – This will focus on rhythms and will link with our dance session in PE.

French including numbers and colours review. Places, food and days of the week.

Art – We will be using different techniques of drawing, painting, watercolours and sketching which we will then build on for the rest of the term. We will be looking at scale as we look at illustrator Oliver Jeffers. We will be looking at different techniques and how they change over time from Ancient Egypt to modern times.

How you can help your child:

Homework

Homework will be given out every **Monday** and collected in every **Friday**. It will usually consist of some maths and some literacy connected to our learning in school that week. Occasionally the children will be asked to carry out a home learning project which is linked to their topic work.

In Key Stage 2 the children will be given a **Go for Gold!** sheet of spellings. Depending on your child's spelling ability, they will have a target to achieve each week - however they are always welcome to try to exceed their target. There will also be 3 new vocabulary words given so that these can build up into a word bank to be used consistently to raise the level of the children's writing.

Reading

Please encourage your child to read **every day**. Any reading to support their topic learning or our literacy units will give them a boost in our day to day classroom discussions. We will be giving out reading rewards to children when they read at home. When a child has been heard to read 4 times **and have had their reading record signed by an adult to prove that they have done this**, their rocket will travel a little further towards its goal. After 10 'blasts', they will receive a bronze award and thereafter for each additional 10 'blasts', they can collect silver and gold awards We are pleased to see that many children have already earned their bronze award. Please do help your child achieve their awards by listening to them read, and **asking questions about their reading**, and signing their reading records.

Writing

It would be great to see your child writing at home for reasons other than 'doing homework'.

- We have heard that some children are keeping diaries or journals – brilliant!
- Why not set a challenge of writing a note, postcard, list, instructions etc.
- We would like to encourage children to bring their examples and show other members of the class.

Maths

As well as regular maths homework, please continue to practice times tables with your child. National expectations are that children know the following times tables to 'Gold Standard':

By the end of year 3 – 2x, 5x, 10x, 3x, 4x and 8x

By the end of year 4 – all tables up to and including 12 x 12, with a newly introduced national test to be taken on these at the end of Year 4.

You can help by encouraging your child to practise for a few minutes every day – in the car on the way to school, for example!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Yarwood