



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust

Providence Way
Baldock
Hertfordshire
SG7 6TT

Head Teacher: Ms A. Hanou

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Autumn Term 2017

Year 2 Autumn Term Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Year 2 parents,

We hope you all had a lovely summer break. We are very much looking forward to working with the children in this class. This letter provides a brief outline of the topics we will be studying this term.

In Maths Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract are the three foundations of teaching maths. Children will be given opportunities to explore and respond to challenges through the use of objects, diagrams and symbols and be encouraged to move between these three representations to ensure a secure grasp of the underpinning principles. They will not be producing pages of "sums" but should be able to see relationships between different aspects of maths and discuss this with curiosity. We will begin by securing place value alongside addition and subtraction within 20 and measurement and money before Christmas

Our English work focuses on six key areas; reading, grammar and punctuation, writing and speaking and listening. We will be starting with a fiction unit; we will use a familiar story as a model to write our own new story. We will then move on to our poetry unit to develop creative writing even further. Our non-fiction units will be Instruction, Recount and Report writing. All of these units incorporate reading and other activities to develop speaking and listening skills. Daily phonics sessions take place outside of English lessons.

Guided Reading Your child will have the opportunity to read to an adult at least once a week. This is achieved either through an adult led guided reading session or an adult reading 1:1 with your child. This will help to develop reading techniques, comprehension skills and responses to a variety of texts.

Reading: Your child will continue to bring home a reading book and reading diary every day so that you can support reading development at home. It is important that these reading times should be fun and as relaxed as possible to help your child develop an enduring love of books. **Please remember to sign your child's diary so that their book can be changed regularly.** The children will have an opportunity to change their book on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday before teaching begins, providing the diary has been signed. We will also have regular school library visits, providing the chance for pupils to explore other texts in addition to the school reading scheme.

This term in **Science** we will be looking at "Uses of Everyday Materials". The children will identify and compare the suitability of some everyday materials for particular uses. Materials and fabrics are looked at in detail through investigations. They will also find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed and are going to think about new uses for materials. We will also be finding out information about the inventor Charles Macintosh.

Company Number: 7944160

Registered Office: Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London. SW1P 1QN



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Our **Computing** unit is called "Coding". This consists of exploring algorithms, using repeat and timer commands, exploring complex programmes to retell a story, using 2code. Computing will often be linked with our Geography and Art topic. E-safety continues being a strong part in delivering this unit.

In Humanities we will begin by exploring our own local areas, places that we have visited before and progressing to wider regions. 'Barnaby Bear' is our mascot for this Geography topic and as I'm sure most of you are aware he will be visiting you for weekend adventures!

During our **Music** sessions we will be exploring different beats and rhythms using our body and transferring our new found skills onto instruments. Closer to Christmas we will be rehearsing a Nativity performance, in which singing plays a key role. This subject will be taught by Mrs Kavanagh.

P.E. will be on Thursdays and Fridays. Mr Baker, our specialised P.E. teacher will take these sessions. Please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school, including sensible trainers and a plain black or navy blue tracksuit. On occasions, P.E. activities may take place on other days, so it is important that P.E. kits are kept in school at all times during the week. Please can we also remind you that children are not permitted to wear earrings for PE sessions, so unless your child can take out their own earrings, please remove them before they come to school on these days. Alternatively, please provide your child with tape to cover the earrings. Please put the tape in a named box which can be kept in school. (We kindly remind you that only stud type earrings are permitted at any time in school.)

Other information

Homework: We will be continuing to use the homework grids, which will be sent home shortly. Homework is due on Fridays and missed homework will be caught up during Thursday lunchtime.

Spellings: Spelling Tests will take place on Friday mornings from Friday 2nd September and pupils will have half termly lists to work from. It is important to find a way that works for your child when practising at home – not all children benefit from copying out the words. Some need to say it out loud or rearrange the letters like an anagram.

Morning Routine: We would like the children to take responsibility for their belongings and for undertaking routines independently. We would therefore like to ask you to say goodbye to your child at the entrance to the school building. If there is anything you need to discuss with us regarding your child, please send a note in with them or see us after school when the children are brought out. Alternatively, you may make an appointment with the office to see us after school.

Clothing: All items of clothing must be labelled clearly as this will ensure that, if an item of your child's uniform is found, it can be returned immediately.

Kind regards

Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Curtis

Year 2 Team

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