



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Spring 1 and 2 Class Newsletter

Year 1 Class Teachers: Mrs Gaffney and Mrs Driver

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and that your child is excited about being back at school for the Spring Term. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the warm welcome you have given us as teachers of Year 1 for this term.

### Prayer and RE learning

This term our theme is Parables and Miracles, Special Celebrations, Lent and Holy Week. We will learn about some of the parables Jesus told his disciples and the messages that these teach us about how we should live our lives. We will be looking at the miracles Jesus performed and what they teach us about Jesus. We will also learn about Baptism and Marriage as special sacramental celebrations. During the season of Lent, we will be thinking about what we can do to get closer to God and discussing our journey through Lent coming to its conclusion at the end of Holy Week.

### Maths

We will start by focusing on place value to twenty including reading and writing numbers in numerals and words. We will then move on to learn about addition and subtraction within twenty. Next we will learn about place value up to fifty including partitioning numbers into tens and ones. We will also learn how to compare lengths and heights and measure length using objects and centimetres. We will end the term learning about mass and volume and how to compare and measure these.

### English

Over the Spring terms we will be planning and writing countdown poems and looking at diary writing and newspaper reports. We will be learning about different word classes and how we can use descriptive language to improve our writing. We will also look at how we can use conjunctions to add further detail to our sentences. We will continue to focus on handwriting and sentence struc-

ture.

We will be reading a range of non-fiction and fiction texts as a whole class to answer questions and complete activities based on what we have read. We use the acronym VIPERS to help us focus our reading on vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and sequencing.

### Phonics

In phonics this term, we will be learning new graphemes for the following sounds: or, oa, long oo, short oo, ar, ur, eer, air, s, j, e, k, sh and uh. We will also be learning to read and write the following common exception words: who, again, thought, through, many, laughed, because, any, eyes, friends, once, please, oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked, could.

### Reading

Each child will continue to receive two home reading books on a Tuesday and these need to be read with an adult at home and returned into school the following Monday. Please remember to talk to your child about the book and use the questions on the inside of the front cover to check your child's understanding of what has been read. It is incredibly important that your child reads with you regularly at home in order to increase their reading fluency.

**The MORE that you  
READ, the more things  
you will KNOW.  
The MORE that you  
Learn, the more places  
you'll GO.**

Dr. Seuss

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## Topic

Our History focus over the next two terms is The Great Fire of London. We will become History Detectives to use sources of evidence to work out where, when and how the fire started. In the role of a History Detective, we will also use history sources to find evidence to explain how we know what happened in The Great Fire of London. We will also look at the causes of the fire and reasons why it spread.

In Science we will learn about the parts of a plant and what they need to stay healthy. We will also compare plants and trees.

## Virtues for the two terms:

### Spring 1: Compassionate and Loving

We are compassionate when we feel sympathy and concern for other people who are in difficulty, whether they are near to us or far away. We are loving when we show our sympathy and concern for other people by our actions and by our words.

### Spring 2: Faith-Filled and Hopeful

We are faith-filled when we are living life as God inspires us to live it, putting the Gospel into action through our actions and deeds. Faith gives us trust in God and in other people. We have to build on it every day through prayer, being part of the faith community of St Mary's and living out the Gospel values.

We are hopeful when we are optimistic about the future, we trust ourselves and others, and we don't give up. Our faith teaches us that

God is hope – that Christ walks before us and gives us the courage to follow. Hope makes us unafraid to step into the unknown and face challenges. Hope can deepen or restore our faith.

## Catholic Social Teaching strands:

### Family and Community

This involves making sure that decisions are made at the most appropriate level, so all those affected can contribute and have a voice.

Everyone has important ideas and knows what is best for their families and communities. They need to have a say and the chance to influence outcomes

### Solidarity and the Common Good

Being in solidarity is recognising others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good. We are connected to people and places all over the world.

The common good is about respecting the rights and responsibilities of all people and leaving no one behind. Our actions have an impact on everyone. When we make decisions, we should consider the good of all.

"... all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

## Expectations for home learning in Year 1

Year 1 children are expected to read at home at least four times a week.

Children will also choose a library book each week.

Literacy or Maths homework is set each Tuesday and should be completed by the following Monday. Please

ensure your child completes the homework each week and hands it in on time.

## PE days

Our PE day has moved to a Tuesday for the whole of the Spring term.

Children should not wear earrings for PE so please ensure your child is either able to remove and put in their own earrings or does not wear earrings on Tuesdays. Children with longer hair should also make sure that it is fully tied back for PE. PE kits will be sent home at the end of the week. Our PE focus is dance and gymnastics so our lessons will be in the school hall. After half term, Mr Mawn, our school PE lead teacher from North Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership, will be working with us on a Tuesday morning.

## Water bottles and uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school with a named water bottle and all school uniform is named. Children should wear black school shoes.

## Dates for the diary

Whole School Mass in the school hall at 9:30am 31st January

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Gaffney and Mrs Driver.

