



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull

Year 2/3 - St Mark's Class

Autumn 2020

A very warm welcome back to a new year in St. Mark's Class. It has been wonderful to see the children back at school, they have settled well and have been full of enthusiasm and smiles, which is fantastic.

'This is me', will be our first mini topic followed by 'Let's get creative!' for our main topic focus for this term. Below you will be able to find out a little more of what the children will be learning this term.

English

In English, we will begin by looking at the book 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers. We will use this book to encourage discussions and ideas about how the children are feeling on their return to school, to reinforce a sense of community and support children to think about how we can look after our very special world.

We shall also be using the book 'Claude in the City' by Alex T Smith. This book will allow the children to write in the role of a character, organise and create a newspaper report and to write their very own sequel to the story! This term, there will be a focus on handwriting and sentence structure. We will be encouraging the children to think about what they want to write before writing it down, which will support them in sounding out any tricky words and spellings.

The children will also have many opportunities to participate in our whole class discussions.

Maths

In maths, we will begin by looking at number and place value, before moving on to addition and subtraction later on in the term. We will be thinking about the different ways that numbers can be represented, using a range of resources to support the children's understanding of place value. The children will learn how to compare groups of objects and numbers, using the correct maths symbols and terminology. We will practise counting on and backwards, thinking about numbers that are more or less than a given number. We will be identifying the value of different numbers in a two digit number to ensure that children feel confident using tens and ones before moving them on to addition and subtraction.

Maths talk and questioning will take place daily within our maths lessons. These daily discussions will support any misconceptions they may have and for them to gain confidence in explaining their understanding of new concepts. The children will also have

This will help to support their communication, listening and speaking skills.	the opportunity to challenge themselves with a range of problem solving and reasoning questions.
<p>Topic</p> <p>Our topic this term will be focused around 'Let's get creative'.</p> <p>In Art we will be learning about the primary and secondary colours, colour mixing and the difference between cold and warm shades. We shall be getting creative, using a range of artwork inspired by the artists we are learning about. This term the children will have the opportunity to work with paints, pastels, watercolour and pencil.</p> <p>In science, we will be learning all about materials and carrying out our own observations and investigations. The children will identify and compare the suitability of a range of materials and explore how some materials can be changed.</p> <p>In computing, we will be exploring how to use technology to share, record and support our learning. We will continue to have a strong focus on internet safety and support the children in feeling confident when using ICT.</p> <p>In Geography we will discover the similarities and differences between a small area in the UK compared to a region within another country. We will also broaden our understanding of physical and human features surrounding us.</p> <p>In music this term, all children will be learning to play an instrument. A teacher from Dorset music services will be coming in once a week to teach the children Ukulele!</p> <p>This term the children will be doing athletics in PE with Mrs Finch.</p>	<p>RE</p> <p>We will start the term by looking at new beginnings and how the world was created. We will also be thinking about how we can care for our world, what we are thankful for and how we can thank God for the world he has created. We will continue to complete our Spiritual Journals weekly.</p>

How you can help your child:

Reading: Every child will read as part of a small group in class at least once a week in addition to being heard individually. It is important for children to read as much as possible and it will really benefit your child if you can hear them read as often as possible, even if it is for ten minutes a day. Encourage them to sound out words that they do not know and ask them simple questions after they have read e.g.: what was the main character called, why did he do that, what was your favourite part of the story etc.

Writing: Encouraging your child to write at home will make them more enthusiastic about writing. Please give them a clear purpose to this writing so that they can see the importance and relevance. The children are encouraged to share any writing they have done at home (via email / ClassDojo) where they will be praised and invited to share it with the rest of the class.

Spelling: Children are taught phonics every day in school where they will learn the sounds that individual and groups of letters make together. It is important to encourage them to listen to the sounds in words that they are trying to spell and write down the sounds that

they can hear. We will be sending a spelling sheet home with a few spellings on a Monday - it would be brilliant if these could be practised at home for a spelling quiz on Friday.

Maths: The children are beginning to see that mathematical concepts are not just happening in our numeracy lessons. They are beginning to understand that maths can happen anywhere and at any time! Please promote this as much as you can, if you see interesting numbers, shapes or ideas anywhere show this to your child and see how much they know!

Bookbags: Bookbags should be brought into school everyday and hung on pegs. Reading Records are checked several times a week when children are heard read individually. Children are encouraged to keep their book for 2-3 days, to ensure they have read it thoroughly and have been able to answer questions confidently before changing it. This will support their reading comprehension and fluency.

PE kit:

Please make sure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit every Wednesday and Friday as these will be the days that they will have PE. Children do not need to bring in their uniform to change back into following their PE lesson.

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

Many thanks

Mel Fletcher