



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

Year 1 newsletter - Spring 1

Happy new year everyone! We are so thrilled to have the children back in school! We are looking forward to Spring term as we have lots of exciting topics; please refer to our curriculum map to see what we will be up to. On Tuesday 14th January at 2:30pm, there will be a Phonics workshop which parents are invited to attend. Just a reminder that books and diaries are to be returned to school on a Monday and new books will be sent home on a Tuesday. Also, please continue to encourage your child to access Numbots weekly!

We are looking forward to the term ahead and to support your little ones to develop, learn and grow!

Year 1 staff

PE

PE days - Spring 1	
Year 1	Thursday - Team building Friday - Ball skills



On PE days - the children come in wearing their PE uniform.

This is the gold t-shirt, royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and plain trainers. Please ensure that any jewellery is taken off for PE days for your child's (and others) safety. All long hair must be tied back in a ponytail.



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*



Catholic Life



Our RE learning for Spring 1 is: -

We will be studying the following units in our RE lessons: -

Christmas

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Jesus. The unit also develops the children's understanding of the importance of the birth of Jesus through the events that happened before and after, and the impact it had on the people involved.

Prayer

This unit is designed to develop the children's understanding of prayer as a special way of spending time with God. In the unit the children will also explore the vocabulary, actions, places and aids associated with prayer, with particular reference to the prayer of praise and intercession. The children will also explore how Christians give praise to God in the psalms and in prayers like the "Glory Be To The Father" and the "Our Father"

Sharing in the life of Jesus

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the way in which, as Christians, we are called to share in the life of Jesus. The unit focuses on Jesus choosing and calling the disciples and how they are an example to us of what it means to be a disciple or follower of Jesus and share in his life.

Curriculum Map - Spring 1

These are the topics that your child will be studying in Spring 1 -

Year 1			
R.E. UNCR4 14			
<p>Stunning Start: Interview members of our school community about their role in school and how they help everybody.</p> <p>Science - Animals including humans. UNCR 24 - Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. - To group and classify animals. - Labels the parts of the body of different animals. - Discuss how animals use these body parts. - Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals). - Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.</p> <p>English - UNCR 29 Terrific Text 'Fair Shares' by Pippa Goodheart Year 1 receive a postcard from George the Monkey. He has been exploring castles. He wants to find out more about who lived in British castles. Writing Opportunities - A letter from Hare or Bear explaining why they think a situation is unfair. - A retell of the story using familiar story language and patterns from the text. - An innovation of part of the story.</p> <p>Oracy - UNCR Article 12 Agree, Build, Challenge, Question Children will use the Oracy mats to hold a sentence and write a sentence.</p>	<p>P.E. UNCR 31 Team building and ball skills; feet - To work as a team and know the what makes an effective team. To understand why it is important to include everyone when working as a team and how to feel to be left out. To explore strategies and solve problems as a team.</p> <p>MFL - French -New year celebration -Songs, actions and stories.</p> <p>Music - Keeping the pulse UNCR 31 To demonstrate an understanding of pulse using parts of the body. To keep a pulse and show a sound pattern using bodies and voices. To explore using a thinking voice to show the pulse. To play short rhythms in time with the pulse.</p> <p>Other Reading Opportunities - 'People who help us' Non-fiction books - 'The Lion inside' by Rachel Bright - 'Elephant learns to share' by Sue Graves - Refugee reading -</p> <p>Spoken Language opportunities Role playing our story 'Fair Shares'</p>	<p>Christmas (Unit D) To develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Jesus. Prayer (Unit C) to develop the children's understanding of prayer as a special way of spending time with God Sharing Jesus' Life (Unit L) to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the way in which, as Christians, we are called to share in the life of Jesus.</p> <p>PSHE: My Happy Mind - Celebrate UNCR 29 The Celebrate module is focused on introducing the evidence-based theory that we all have different character strengths and we can use them to be at our best! RSE: Module 1: Created and loved by God Unit 3 - emotional wellbeing Feelings, like and dislikes, feeling inside out and Susie gets angry.</p> <p>Dignity of Work Work increases the common good. Virtues: Grateful & Generous Scripture Focus: <i>"Practise integrity in your work"</i> Luke 3:10-14 Prayer Focus: Glory be Mass Responses Big Question - Why is every job important?</p>	<p>Maths - UNCR 28 Place value within 20 Counting within 20, to find one more and one less than a given number, uses a number line to 20.</p> <p>Addition and Subtraction within 20. Add by counting on within 20. Doubles and near doubles. Subtraction using number bonds, counting back and finding the difference.</p> <p>Geography- My School, My Local Area and the World - UNCR 13 Substantive Knowledge Space and Scale: Planned perspective, location of school and key human and physical features in the area. Geographical Location: City within the UK, UK countries, UK on a world map and the continents. Local Facilities: Awareness of park features (e.g., playground, natural areas). Disciplinary Knowledge Mapping and Perspectives: Understanding maps and plans, including scale and symbols. Fieldwork: Importance of data collection to study local areas. Spatial Understanding: Relationships between local, national and global geography. Procedural Knowledge Interpret maps and plans to locate their school and street. Conduct fieldwork to observe and record park facilities. Use observations to relate local features to wider geographical concepts.</p> <p>Art - Playgrounds - UNCR 8 Structural Art - sculpting and paper lines. Knowledge- To know paper sculpting is a form of art that involves creating three-dimensional objects out of paper. Skills- being able to create creases and folds in the paper to create a three-dimensional shape.</p> <p>Computing - Algorithms unplugged - UNCR 17 Explain what an algorithm is. Write clear algorithms. Follow an algorithm. Explain what inputs and outputs are. Create an achievable program. Decompose a design into steps. Identify bugs in an algorithm and how to fix them.</p> <p>Other Opportunities Epiphany UNCR 14 School of Sanctuary - UNCR 22 Jubilee launch day UNCR 14 Online Safety Week - UNCR 17 Candlemas UNCR 14</p> <p>Marvellous Middle Present a thank you card to Maggie our cleaner for all that she does for Year 1 and keeping our learning environment special.</p>

Homework - spelling

To be tested on 10.01.25

Graphemes taught this week- y ea wh oe ou

Spellings:

happy
head
wheel
toe
funny
bread
white
shoulder
water
any



To be tested on 17.01.25

Graphemes taught this week- y ow g ph

Spellings:

fly
grow
huge
phone
dry
yellow
magic
photo
who
whole

To be tested on 24. 01.25

Graphemes taught this week- le al c ve

Spellings:

bubble
total
face
give
gentle
petal
mice
leave
school
call

To be tested on 31.01.25

Graphemes taught this week - ou o se ce se ey

Spellings:

Touch
cheese
dance
key
won
noise
horse
monkey
thought
friend

To be tested on 07.02.25

Graphemes taught this week- ui y y ow ou e s oa

Spellings:

Fruit
happy
fizzy
follow
group
secret
visit
groan
water
want



To be tested on 14.02.25

We will be recapping all graphemes taught this half term.

Spellings:

happy
head
touch
cheese
fly
grow
fizzy
follow
mice
leave

Homework - reading



We expect children to read to an adult at home every day. Our younger children are learning to read using the Little Wandle phonics scheme. They need to practise their blending of sounds and word reading all the time at this age. You can help at home and then sign the reading diary.

Year 1's will be issued with a **new reading book on a Tuesday.**

Please read with your child throughout the week and return the book on a Monday ready for their book to be changed.

Homework - maths

Research shows that quick recall of calculation facts is essential for helping children do well in their maths learning. Encourage your child to be on numbots every night and support them to improve their quick arithmetic skills.

Homework - Power Project - Science

Animals including humans - Our power projects this half term have a Science theme. This is an optional home learning activity that you can do at home.

Year 1 are learning about animals, including humans

We will be learning how to group and classify animals, describe the features of different animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals), the parts of the human body and which part of the body links to which sense.

We have given some activity ideas below...

1. **Types of animals:** Use BBC Bitesize to explore the different groups of animals (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mini-beasts). Draw them under each title. What is similar or different about the animals in each group?

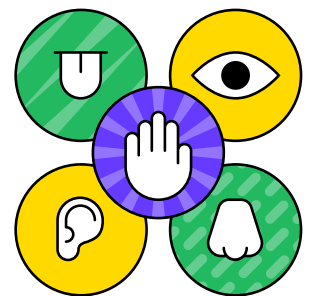
2. **Animal masks:** Using different materials around the house, create a mask of your favourite animal. Think about the colours and shape, as well as the body parts you identified in the writing task. You can be creative and use paint, coloured pens, or pencils, paper, tin foil, even drinking straws and lollipop sticks.



3. **Animal features:** Carefully draw an animal considering its features and body parts. Can you label the features that classifies this animal?

4. **Senses** - What senses do humans have? Create something that involves the use of the senses... ideas include

- Making a telephone using paper cups (hear)
- Uses spices to create a piece of art that you can (smell)
- Using recycled material to make a 3D picture (sight)
- Cooking something tasty (taste)
- Using different materials to create something (feel)



5. **Minibeasts and habitats** - Visit your local park and look out for the different habitats and animals that inhabit the area. What minibeasts can you find? How many types of chirp can you hear from the birds in the trees?

Choose your own habitat and design an animal that can live there.

Dates for this half term – Year 1

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

6th January - all day

14th January 2025 - 2:30pm

15th January 2025 - 9:15am

24th January 2025- all day

4th February 2025 - am

6th February 2025 - 4:00pm

WB 10.2.25

11th February 2025 - all day

14th February 2025 - end of day

Dignity of Work

Grateful and Generous

Children return to school at normal time

Year 1 Phonics and Early Reading Workshop for parents

Year 1 Mass in Church (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

Jubilee Launch Day

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:45 IF and 10:15 IL)

PTA meeting

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day

Break up for half-term break - normal time