



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy



With Christ at the Centre,
we show

Unity Respect Joy Love Courage

September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this new school year, which will be an exciting and busy one for you and your child. In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) it is very important to us that you are involved in your child's learning both at home and at school. This letter aims to introduce our staff team and to give you an idea of some of the learning that will be going on in our class this term, as well as some ideas for things you can do together at home.

The EYFS curriculum is based upon seventeen areas of learning, Prime Areas (Communication and Language – *C&L*, Physical Development - *PD*, Personal, Social, Emotional Development - *PSED*) and Specific Areas (Literacy, Mathematics, Knowledge and Understanding of the World - *KUW*, Expressive Arts and Design – *EA&D*) some of which are further broken down. This half term, our learning will be done through the theme 'Making and Baking'.

A secure level of **Communication and Language (C&L)** forms the basis of excellent learning in all other areas. Therefore, we focus on this prime area right from the very beginning of the year. Our first topic will be 'Marvellous Me' with emphasis on discussion about things we enjoy and that make us unique (**PSED**). We will talk about how to express



feelings in appropriate ways and how we can be sensitive to others. The children will have the opportunity to co-operate and take turns with others. The children will become confident to try new activities and to speak in a familiar group. We will also talk about our bodies, how to keep them healthy and have the opportunity to create simple representations of our own faces (**EA&D**) in a variety of different media. Children will also have continuous access to instruments, creative materials and be encouraged to experiment and try out their own

ideas.

We will also be learning about changes in the seasons and (**KUW**) Our class will be going on autumn walks into the woodland to changes and collect evidence of autumn, hopefully we can do some produce from our very own orchard!



environment.
investigate
baking with the

The children will also have the opportunity to use the class computers to extend their mouse skills, as well as creating pictures of their family and using the school games and learning tools to support their literacy and numeracy skills.

Physical Development: In PE, on Wednesdays, we shall be learning how to get ourselves dressed and exploring different ways to move our bodies using big and small movements. Throughout the term there will be many play-based activities set up to develop children's fine and gross motor skills, especially working with the correct pincer grip to enable pencil control. This is something that you can help your child with at home, doing simple activities like pegging out washing, playing with small constructions toys, moulding play-dough, or practicing 'writing'.



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Literacy: In EYFS we start learning to read and write by enjoying books and sounds together. Before half term we start our formal Phonics programme, focusing on learning the letter names and sounds (*initially the phonemes; s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d*). We will then start to blend words using the sounds and will be learning some high frequency words.

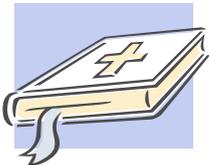


Writing develops later as children learn to segment words and hear constituent letters, as well as developing the necessary letter formation. Children gain confidence in writing through practising writing their name. This is something you can do together at home. We will also send home colouring sheets with the letter we have learned in phonics, in your child's Home Learning Book, do consolidate your child's learning by doing these together.

Numeracy: This term we will focus on joining in with counting songs, counting up to and back from 10 and then 20. We will ensure that all children can count small groups of objects accurately. During the term the class will look at simple patterns as well as discussing similarities and differences of shapes in the environment. We will also begin to learn the days of the week... so do talk about these things at home too.



Religious Education:



Our focus in RE this half term is 'God's World'. The children will learn that God loves and cares for each one of us. They will learn about and retell the story of creation. Children will be helped to reflect on the thought that they are created by God and that each one of them is special. This will be linked to our PSED as we learn to respect each other.

For most of the day, children will be learning through activities that will cover more than one area of learning and they will be encouraged to make choices and develop independence in their learning. Learning opportunities will be available through a range of indoor and outdoor activities; role-play, sand, water, painting, construction, use of classroom computers and the creative workshop. Both adult-led and independent free-flow activities will be tailored to encourage development for each individual child. All children are unique and learn in different ways!

The children will be offered a healthy fruit snack at school. Please provide a named bottle of water, which they will be able to access need it. Please also send your child with a named outdoor wellies, as this will enable them to enjoy outdoor activities weather.



your child with whenever they coat and whatever the

This year we are fortunate to have a strong team of experienced and well qualified staff working in EYFS. Mrs Oultram and myself are with the children throughout the week, additionally, Mrs Archer, Mrs Munro, Mrs Hull and Mrs Dunlop will also be on hand to deliver a secure quality EYFS curriculum for your child.

I hope that this outline will enable you to support your child in their learning. If at any time you would like to talk about your child's learning and development please do not hesitate to come and see me. I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and I hope you are too.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sarah Harrison