



ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Strive to succeed in the presence of God

Important dates

Monday 13th January- Phonics Meeting 9.15am or 7pm
Friday 24th January- Puppet Workshop
Thursday 30th January- Star is Born
Friday 31st January- Star is Born
Tuesday 11th February- Internet Safety Day
Friday 14th February- Break up for half term
Tuesday 25th February- 1Y visit the Church
Wednesday 26th February- 1G visit the Church

How to help at home

Our main focus is to continue practising the children's letter and number formation (these can be found on our school website). Also, addition and subtraction in maths this half term. Please use any resources to complete addition and subtraction problems (this could be as simple as pasta tubes).

Make up stories together verbally, encouraging your child's imagination. Your child may then want to write it down or create a book or comic of the story that you shared together.

Sing songs together. This will help with your child's memory. There are lots of educational songs online. Even make up your own to help them remember how to spell tricky words! Find your inner Rockstar!

Continue reading with your child when possible. Please refer to your child's reading record for ideas.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your families have had a relaxing Christmas break ready for the start of the new term.

This newsletter will give you information about some of the things that your child will be learning during this term. We hope that you find it helpful but please do not hesitate to ask throughout the year if you ever have any concerns or questions.

Year 1
Spring 1

In RE this half term...

This half term our topic is 'Galilee to Jerusalem'. In this branch, pupils are introduced to the belief that through Jesus' ministry, many recognised him as the Son of God. Pupils will reflect on the significance of biblical events, such as the recognition of Jesus by Simeon and Anna, who see beyond the baby to the truth of his divinity. This branch focuses on St. Luke's portrayal of Jesus as a compassionate figure who reaches out to society's marginalised, including the poor, women, and outsiders. Pupils will explore how Jesus' character attracts followers and demonstrates love and kindness.

Useful links for Phonics

Information about the Phonics Screening Check:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KekMH5Ws/94NA8HQG>

How to say the sounds:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NX4jUgYb/POIRRbyC>

Reading the stretchy sounds:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9HLpiqueC/kObvTOu4>

Reading the bouncy sounds:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/D7bwhODx/0QnFOMUh>

In English...

The children will have been reassessed before half term and will now be in the correct Phonics groupings. They will be reading in class and using the books for writing. Books will be sent home when they finish in class as a 'show off' opportunity alongside an unseen book bag book of the same level. Children will be reassessed as we go along to ensure they are in the correct group throughout the year and at the end of every half term.



In Science...

Our Science topic this half term is continuing 'Materials'. Children will carry out simple comparative test to explore which materials are able to absorb water. They rank or sort materials based on whether they would be appropriate to clear up a water spillage.

Children will then move onto the topic 'Plants'. In this topic children will perform a simple plant dissection, using classroom scissors. Children will be exposed to a range of different plants that have a variety of leaf shapes and flowers. Children will then identify and name tree parts. Children will then name and identify common wildflowers and garden plants. They identify that wildflowers are plants that grow naturally in the countryside. Garden plants, such as sunflowers and roses, are planted in a garden by humans and looked after by them.

In Music...

Children will have a weekly lesson with Mr Charles-Nelson. This half term the children will be covering the topic "Taking off pitch".

In Geography...

This half term the children will be naming and locating the United Kingdom's:

- Countries
- Capital cities
- Surrounding seas.

The children will use key geographical words when learning about the key human and physical features of these places. They will know some human and physical geography of England and Wales and their capital cities, London and Cardiff.

These include:

- Human features (famous landmarks) of these places.
- Physical features (rivers, mountains, weather patterns) of these places.

PE ...

Lessons will be on Monday and Thursday.

Games- In this unit children develop their sending and receiving skills. They focus on sending objects such as beanbags, balls and hoops by rolling, throwing and kicking, and practise different ways of receiving by tracking, catching, stopping and controlling. They are encouraged to select appropriate skills and suggest their own ideas when working with a partner or when playing a game in a small group.

Dance- Exploring gesture and formation: In this unit children explore basic body actions, e.g. jumping, shapes and travel, and use different parts of their body to make movements.

In RHE...

Created to Love Others

Created to Love Others explores the individual's relationship with others. Building on the understanding that we have been created out of love and for love, this module explores how we take this calling into our family, friendships and relationships, and teaches strategies for developing healthy relationships and keeping safe both online and in our daily lives.

In Maths...

Place Value to 20 - Children will build upon their existing knowledge of counting forwards and backwards by introducing the numbers 11-20. Children will explore the meaning of the suffix 'teen' and what this tells us about a number.

Addition - Children will be exploring addition by counting on from a given number. They will begin to understand that addition is commutative and that it is more efficient to start from the largest number.

In D&T...

This term the children will be making their own puppets. They will join fabrics together using pins, staples or glue, design a puppet and use a template, join their two puppets' faces together as one and decorate a puppet to match their design. For this topic we have the 'Little Angel Theatre' coming into school to do a whole day workshop with the children creating their puppet.

In ICT...

This term ICT, the children will be taken into the computing suite for the first time. They will practise logging on and off of a computer.

In the unit 'Rocket to the moon' the children will develop keyboard and mouse skills by designing rockets, creating digital material lists, using drawing software and recording data.