'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR 2 NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2

St. Mary's Catholic Infant School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Religious Education



Our RE scheme is called 'Lighting the Path'
This term our theme is called 'Prophecy and Promise'

Our learning journey towards Christmas

As we journey towards Christmas, the children will be learning about the special promises made by God and how these promises were shared through the prophets in the Old Testament. We will explore how the prophets told people about the coming of a special person who would bring hope, peace and love.

The children will discover how Christians believe that these promises were fulfilled through the birth of Jesus. We will look at the Christmas story and consider how the events surrounding Jesus' birth link to the promises made long before he was born.
Through stories, discussion and reflection, we will encourage the children to think about:

- What is a promise, and why are promises important?
- Who were the prophets, and what messages did they share?
- What did God promise his people?
- How did the birth of Jesus fulfil God's promises?
- Why is the birth of Jesus so important to Christians today?

We will also think about the feelings of hope, excitement and anticipation that come with waiting for something special, making links to the way Christians prepare for and celebrate Christmas.
By the end of our learning journey, we hope the children will understand why Christmas is such an important celebration for Christians and how the story of Jesus' birth is connected to God's promises of hope and salvation.
We look forward to sharing the children's thoughts, questions and discoveries as we follow the path towards Christmas!



Literacy: A Hero Called Wolf by Lucy Rowland and Ben Mantle

Our class text: A Hero Called Wolf by Lucy Rowland and Ben Mantle
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HheFGnbMy9c
BBC bedtime story -https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K0knjjbmoI
Through this engaging story, the children will develop their reading and writing skills, learning how authors bring characters to life and how stories are structured.

‘Aspire not to have more, but to be more’

We will be exploring the characters in the book, thinking carefully about their personalities, feelings and actions. The children will discuss how characters behave and how we can use clues from the text and illustrations to understand them.

Our learning will include:

- **Getting to know characters:** Describing characters, exploring their feelings and discussing their actions and personalities.
- **Story structure:** Identifying the beginning, middle and end of a story and understanding how events are sequenced to create an engaging narrative.
- **Developing vocabulary:** Exploring exciting adjectives, powerful verbs and interesting words and phrases to make our writing more descriptive.
- **Writing narratives:** Creating our own stories inspired by the book, developing our own wolf characters and thinking about the adventures they might have.
- **Improving our writing:** Learning to write clear sentences, use appropriate punctuation and make thoughtful vocabulary choices to engage our readers.

Throughout the unit, the children will have opportunities to share their ideas, develop their imagination and become confident storytellers.
By the end of our learning journey, we hope the children will be able to create their own exciting wolf-inspired narratives, using well-developed characters, a clear story structure and interesting vocabulary to bring their stories to life.
We look forward to seeing the wonderful creativity and imagination that Year 2 will bring to their writing!



Phonics

Little Wandle: Phase 5 Review and Bridge to Spelling

This term in Year 2, the children will continue to develop their phonics and spelling knowledge through the *Little Wandle* programme. We will begin by completing a review of Phase 5 phonics before moving on to the *Bridge to Spelling* programme.

During our Phase 5 review, the children will revisit previously taught sounds and alternative ways of spelling the same sounds. They will practise recognising different graphemes, reading words with increasing fluency and applying their phonics knowledge when spelling.

We will then move on to Bridge to Spelling, which helps children make the important transition from using phonics to read words to applying their phonics knowledge when spelling independently.
Our learning will include:

- **Phase 5 review:** Revisiting alternative pronunciations and spellings of sounds, securing our knowledge of the different ways sounds can be represented.
- **Reading and spelling:** Practising reading and spelling words containing previously taught graphemes.
- **Spelling patterns:** Exploring how sounds link to letters and groups of letters and choosing the correct spelling for different words.

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

- **Spelling rules:** Learning about spelling conventions, including when to double letters and how to add suffixes such as *-s, -es, -ing* and *-ed*.
- **Independent spelling:** Developing strategies to listen carefully to words, identify their sounds and make sensible spelling choices.
- **Applying our learning:** Using our growing phonics and spelling knowledge in our everyday reading and writing.

Throughout the term, we will encourage the children to become confident and independent spellers, understanding that there can be different ways to represent the same sound. There are lots of opportunities to support this learning at home by encouraging children to read regularly, spot alternative spellings in their books and practise spelling words using their phonics knowledge.



Maths

White Rose Maths: Addition and Subtraction and Shape

This term in Maths, Year 2 will be following the White Rose Maths scheme, focusing on developing confidence and fluency in addition and subtraction before moving on to exploring shape.
Our learning will give the children opportunities to use practical resources, drawings and number sentences to develop their understanding and explain their mathematical thinking.

Addition and Subtraction

We will be developing our understanding of numbers and learning different strategies to help us solve addition and subtraction calculations.
Our learning will include:

- Adding and subtracting numbers using a range of strategies.
- Understanding the relationship between addition and subtraction.
- Using number bonds to help us calculate efficiently.
- Adding and subtracting ones and tens.
- Crossing the tens boundary when adding and subtracting.
- Solving missing number problems and simple word problems.
- Explaining our methods and reasoning using mathematical vocabulary.

Shape

We will then move on to exploring 2D and 3D shapes, learning to recognise, name and describe their properties.
Our learning will include:

- Recognising shapes: Identifying and naming a range of 2D and 3D shapes.
- Describing 2D shapes: Counting sides and vertices (corners) and comparing different shapes.
- Drawing shapes: Practising drawing 2D shapes and recognising their features.
- Symmetry: Exploring lines of symmetry and learning how to complete symmetrical shapes.
- Exploring 3D shapes: Identifying and counting faces, edges and vertices.
- Sorting and patterns: Sorting 2D and 3D shapes according to their properties and creating repeating patterns.

Throughout our Maths lessons, we will use practical resources, games, investigations and problem-solving activities to help develop the children's mathematical confidence.

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

By the end of these units, we hope the children will be more confident in choosing appropriate methods to solve addition and subtraction problems, explaining their mathematical reasoning and recognising and describing a variety of 2D and 3D shapes.
How you can help at home: Encourage your child to practise number bonds to 10 and 20, count forwards and

backwards, and look for 2D and 3D shapes in everyday objects around the home.

General Information:

We will be visiting the National Army Museum on 18th November and learning about why we wear poppies. It will provide an engaging learning experience, bringing history to life through exploration and discovery.

- Please remember that we have a no earrings policy in school.
- All hair bands should be in school colours.
- Please label all school uniform and ensure your child has a book bag every day.
- Swimming and PE:
  St Martin swim on Thursday. The children may wear PE kit on this day for ease of changing.
  St Francis have PE on Thursday and the children may wear trainers.
- Reading books for the next few weeks:
  The children will bring two books home, one is a Phase levelled reading book and the other a book of their own free choice. Please listen to your child reading the Phase book to practise their reading. This book will be given to your child on a Friday and should be returned back on Wednesday. Please re-read it to reinforce all the new sounds in the book. The free choice book is for you to read to your child and enjoy with them. Thank you

  Thank you for your support and God bless you and your families.
  From the Year 2 Team