



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth

8th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for this rather late bulletin! Please read below to find out what we have been doing last week and this week. Your new bulletin for next week is also attached!

Look at our hedgehog pom poms! We had such fun making these to link with our class novel 'The Hodgeheg'. Making pom poms is also an excellent opportunity for children to improve their fine motor skills. We know many of our children were keen to make some at home too! If you check Youtube for pom pom tutorials or we can give you instructions if you like!



Literacy

Reading:

Please support your child with their daily reading and sign your child's diary daily. As well as recording their school books, we encourage you to record any other home/ library book or text that they read. It is lovely to see your child reading and enjoying a wide variety of texts. We have updated our class libraries now and they now have a wider selection of fiction books for the children to choose from. A request – if anyone has any hedgehog books, hedgehog cuddly toys or fact sheets please send them in with your child. Many thanks to Bowen and Samuel from 3S who bought in some interesting hedgehog fact sheets this week. Thank you.

In Guided Reading lessons the focus this term is on broadening an understanding of vocabulary. The children are using the skills of retrieval and inference in extracts of our Year 3 class book 'The Hodgeheg'. The children have also completed a reading test this week too.

Spelling:

Please support your child in learning their spellings. You could also encourage them to practise writing interesting sentences with their spelling words in, or to make up games to learn their spellings (such as Tic, Tac, Toe). The weekly spelling test will be on a Tuesday. This week we introduced a new spelling game which the children were really engaged in, called 'Count the Vowels'

Instructions

Vowels = 10 points

"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"

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Consonants =5 points

Children must add up the numerical value of each letter to see what each word is worth.

For example –

People = $5+10+10+5+5+10=45$ points.

CHALLENGE – can you find a word that is worth exactly 100 points? Please bring it in and show Miss Shaw.

SPAG

This week in our spelling and grammar lessons we will be looking at meaning of our spelling words and constructing complex sentences using conjunctions, such as 'because', 'but' and 'so', to join sentences together. We will also be looking at the different word classes. Can you child tell you what an adjective is? A verb? Adverb? Preposition?

Check out Grammarsaurus video clips on Youtube for help with SPAG (they are pretty funny too!) www.topmarks.co.uk also has some brilliant SPAG and maths games on there to encourage your child to revise their basic skills.

Writing:

Last week the children have been listening to and acting out the first few chapters from our class novel, 'The Hodgeheg'. The children made mini props and puppets to help them. We have been continuing our work on setting and character description and thinking about the parks and gardens that Max the hedgehog travels through on his journey and what he can see, smell, feel etc. Together with this bulletin, we are going to send out a copy of the writing assessment we use to assess your child's writing. A few parents have said this would be useful for them so you can see exactly what is expected from a year three child. If you have questions about this, please see your child's teacher. We will also include some examples of different sentence types that we use at school to demonstrate how sentences can be 'built' in different ways.

Mathematics and Homework

The weekly Maths homework has been put in your child's homework book. This will go out on a Thursday and is due in on Tuesday please. We mark the homework during the lesson on Tuesday morning, so please ensure that they have their homework books in school on a Tuesday.

During our maths lessons for the next few weeks we will be working on telling the time accurately to the nearest minute. Any teacher will tell you that time and money are the two maths subjects which are the most challenging to teach! So, if you can support us by looking at the time together at home and discussing the difference between analogue and digital clocks that would be great!

RE

We had a very special visitor last week who told us all about her Jewish faith and brought in special objects which she explained were very important to Jewish people. Our visitor was very impressed with the thought provoking and in depth questions that our year three children asked. This week we have started our new unit on Lent, which was started off beautifully with a very special Ash Wednesday Mass at church, thank you to those who joined us.

Science

We have been continuing our 'Forces' topic by exploring and investigating a variety of different types of magnets. We have been lucky to have been able to order a class set of brand new magnets and the children have loved our practical lessons. They have been finding out about the properties of magnets and grouping materials that are magnetic and those which are not. They are using scientific language, as well as drawing diagrams, collecting data in a table of results, and making conclusions about what they find out. Next week the children will be investigating the magnetic poles using the school magnets.

Swimming

The second group of children are doing really well their swimming lessons. Please continue to ensure that your child has their correct swimming kit and PE kit at school on their swimming day. As the weather is getting colder now, please send your child in with a woolly hat and warm coat, and make sure they have tracksuit bottoms in their PE kits. Thank you.

Thank you for your ongoing support at home with your children.

P.S An advance warning....please can you start collecting empty cardboard boxes (cereal boxes etc) Thank you!

Regards,

Year Three Teachers

Miss Shaw (LKS2 Phase Leader), Mrs Mills, Miss Lomas