

# ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. I trust that you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

I am writing this letter to inform you of the curriculum overview for the coming weeks. Our topic for the first half of the term is 'Toys from the Past'. This topic has a specific History focus which guides the children to look at similarities and differences between toys today and toys in the past. It will introduce the children to the concepts of 'old' and 'new', and encourage them to think about the changes in their own lives and in those of their family or adults around them. Within this topic the children will also explore their own preferences in the types of toys they like and will have opportunities to write about their favourite toys.

The curriculum coverage in each subject for this term will be as follows:

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| Literacy | Phonics, Writing and Reading progression through Read Write Inc. Please check your child's book bag regularly for new sound sheets. <u>Please note:</u> your child will not necessarily learn new sounds every week, as the programme is designed so that they spend time consolidating their learning through using the guided reading books and through writing activities.<br>Writing Unit: Stories with Familiar Settings. The children will explore the book 'Dogger' - the story of a little boy called Dave who loses his favourite toy, Dogger.  |
| Numeracy | The children will:<br>Explore halving in practical contexts by halving objects, numbers, shapes and pictures.<br>Add 1, 2 and 3 by counting on; subtract 1, 2, 3 or more by counting back; begin to add three small numbers by spotting bonds to 10 or doubles (1-6).<br>Use counters and objects to help them to work out the answers to 'missing-number' problems.<br>Understand and then make teen numbers (10 and some 1s); compare and order numbers to 20, then 30; find the number between two numbers with a difference of 2.<br>Understand and use ordinal numbers<br>Recognise, name and describe squares, rectangles, circles and triangles; recognise basic line symmetry; sort 2D shapes according to their properties, using Venn diagrams and Carroll diagrams.<br>Describe position and direction using common words (including half turns); compare lengths and heights; estimate, compare and measure lengths using uniform non-standard and standard units. |
| RE       | Special People<br>Meals<br>Change (Lent and Easter)<br>Please refer to the separate RE themes sheet for more detail.   |
| Science  | Pushes and Pulls - linked to work on toys. In this unit the children will learn about different sorts of movement and how to describe these. They relate movement to pushes and pulls.   |
| ICT      | Computing - learning how to give computers instructions and programming.   |

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| History    | Toys from the Past. I hope to arrange for someone from the Somerset Heritage Centre to visit us at school and bring in some toys from the past. If any of you have any old toys, perhaps from grandparents or older family members we would love to see them!   |
| Art and DT | Investigating materials - children will make a set of commies (marbles) and Peg Dolls. They will be led through the process of: Generate (developing ideas and exploring techniques) Design (design a purposeful, functional product) and Make (selecting from tools and equipment and evaluate effectiveness of finished product). |

During our topic, the children will be required to bring in some of their toys from home to stimulate discussions in the classroom. One of the opportunities for the children to do this will be in a few weeks' time (I will send a letter to confirm the date) during a Show and Tell session in our Literacy lesson. I would like the children to be able to talk about one of their favourite **CUDDLY TOYS** (e.g. a soft toy like a teddy or other animal) and answer the following questions. *What is the toy? When/where did you get it? Why is it your favourite toy?* We will then write about these cuddly toys and draw pictures of them. If you are happy for your child to bring in their toy on the specified date, please put it into a named plastic bag (nothing too expensive!). If you would prefer, your child could bring in a picture of them holding their favourite toy.

Later on in the term I will send home another letter to ask for the children to bring in a small toy to help us in our Science lessons. We will be learning about how things can be moved by being pushed or pulled and the children will carry out an investigation of their toys to see how they move.

#### **Other messages:**

**Water:** Please ensure your child has a named water bottle at school with them everyday. We do not have access to a water fountain from the Infant playground, so it is vital that the children have a bottle of water to keep them hydrated throughout the day. A gentle reminder that your child should only have water in this bottle. I have noticed that some children are bringing fruit squash to school and this is not permitted.

**Class Assembly:** Class 1's assembly to the rest of the school will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 2.50pm. As usual, you are all invited to come along and watch.

**PE on Thursday afternoons:** The children still have to change for PE before lunchtime and will still be sent home in their PE kits. Now that the weather is getting colder and wetter, it is really important that the children stay warm and dry before their PE lesson and on their way home from school. I would advise that you send in a pair of dark coloured sports trousers (like tracksuit bottoms, leggings or joggers) for them to wear.

**A request:** If you have time, please could you collect together a small bag of recycling that the children could use for some junk modelling. Please ensure that the items are clean and do not still have food on/in them.

**Another request!:** We have had many kind donations of boxes of tissues which have now all been used. If you might be able to send in another box it would be very much appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries. I look forward to an exciting term ahead with the children and really appreciate all the support you give them to consolidate their learning at home.

Kind regards,

Mrs. R Godfrey