

General Class Information

Happy New Year!!! I hope that you've all had a wonderful Christmas and restful break. Well done to every child in Year 1 who has had an amazing first term. We have been so busy and the children have worked hard to impress us in so many ways. I'm sure that this super effort and attitude will continue into the Spring Term. Mrs Niewiadomski will continue to support the class each morning. Mrs Belicki will continue her teaching placement for the first 3 weeks of the Spring Term. We are pleased that Mrs Gwilt will also be joining the Year 1 team, supporting some children in the class on a one-to-one basis.

Reading diaries

Please ensure that your child is heard reading at least **three times a week**. This needs to be recorded in their reading diaries and their books will be changed once we have seen this in their diaries. We will be changing books every Monday so please ensure that all diaries are signed/dated by Monday. We will be having a huge focus on reading this half term so the reading diaries will be monitored closely. Please ensure that your child has all of their reading books and reading diaries in school every day. Before the Christmas break there were a number of children who didn't bring these into school for a number of weeks. It is key for your child's reading development to support them at home with their reading on a regular basis.

Spellings

Spellings will be given on a **Monday** and then tested the following **Monday**. These spellings will be put in to a simple dictation sentence and will form part of our English lessons. These spellings will be a mixture of high-frequency words and phonetically decodable words.

It is important that you help your child to practice these spellings as this will allow them to make progress in their learning.

The completed spelling sheets do not need to be returned to school (the children need to keep these at home so that they can continue to practise them over the week).

PE

Our PE day will be on a **Friday**. Children need to bring their PE kit into school on the first day of term and leave it in school until the end of the half term. Correct P.E uniform for this is a navy t-shirt, navy blue shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers/pumps.

[Earrings must not be worn at any time in school \(as stated in the school policy\)](#)

Homework

Homework will be sent home every Thursday in your child's purple book. Please support your child in completing this (but please don't do it for them!) Homework books must be returned to school by Wednesday of the following week.

Phonics activities will also be sent out over the half term to get the children ready for their end of year phonics assessment in June. This will either be set via purple mash or on a worksheet.

Here at St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy, we have an open door policy and if you would ever like to speak to myself then please email on natalie.meakin@stjohnskidsgrove.org.uk

Yours sincerely, Mrs Meakin



Animals and Polar Regions



**Year One
Spring Term (1st half)
2024**

Spring 1

Welcome back! We hope that you have had a fantastic and well-deserved Christmas break. Below is a brief outline of what we will be learning in each subject during the first part of our Spring term.

Virtues

This half term our virtues theme is Loving and Compassionate. We will be continuing to grow to be compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate and be loving by the children's just actions and forgiving words.

We will be supporting the children grow by being compassionate and loving in the way they are treated especially when a pupil is in trouble; and by opening their eyes to those who suffer poverty, injustice or violence. .

We will complete work on Catholic Social Teaching to support these values and virtues.

Religious Education

In RE this term, the children will be exploring Christmas and Jesus: Teacher and Healer, In the Christmas unit the children will understand Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Jesus and the events that happened both before and after and the impact it had on the people involved.

In the unit about Jesus, the children will be developing their knowledge and understanding of Jesus and his ministry as a teacher and healer.

English

The focus books for this term will be Lost and Found and The Snail and The Whale.

Throughout the topic, the children will be focusing on punctuation including capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks.

The children will also be focusing on writing non-fiction pieces of work such as non-chronological reports and letters and we will be reading, retrieving information and writing. We will link some of our English work to our topic of the polar regions and write facts about polar animals.

We will be carrying out daily whole class reading activities and the children will have time on a daily basis to read independently/quietly to themselves.

Maths

We will continue to follow our Power Maths Scheme. The following topics will be covered over this half term:

2d and 3d shapes, numbers to 20, addition and subtraction within 20, numbers to 50, length and height, mass and capacity.

We will continue to complete our weekly number bonds tasks.

Science

This half-term, we will be learning about animals. This includes identifying and labelling a variety of common animals such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, knowing how to care for pets and understanding the diet of animals and if they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.

P.E

This half-term, Year 1 will have their P.E lessons on a **Friday**. Please ensure that your child's P.E kit is sent in on the first day of term and remains in school until the end of the half term.

Art

During this half term Year 1 will be focusing on polar region art. They will be learning how to create different moods with art using a range of resources. The children will also learn how to create a repeating pattern in art and learning about the artist Andy Warhol.

Geography

This half term the children will be focusing on polar regions. We will be looking at the Arctic and Antarctica and exploring animals that live there and their way of life. We will be discussing, comparing and gathering information about the polar regions. We will then focus on a contrasting part of the world and looking at differences in Africa.

Phonics

The children will continue to do phonics daily focusing on phase 3, 4 and 5.

The phonics screening check will be done in the Summer term for all year 1 pupils so it is important that the children are practicing their sounds daily. **To help with this your child will bring home a word purse containing some phonics sounds. Please help your child to practise these daily.**