



# Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Torside Pentecost I Newsletter

Welcome back and I hope you have had a relaxing Easter break? We are looking forward to another fun and busy half term together.

Here's an overview of what we will be learning about in Torside this half term.

### English

This half term we will be reading three class texts:

Little Evie in the Wild Woods, Little Red Reading Hood and Let's get Gardening.

Using the texts to inspire our writing, we will be focusing on:



**Narrative writing:** Writing a story setting that creates a different mood. Writing a story ending for Little Evie,. Writing a new story based on Little Red.

**Poetry:** Writing a simile poem about plants found in the woods.

**Explanation text:** Explaining the life cycle of a plant, and how to grow strong and healthy plants.

### Guided reading

We will continue to read a variety of texts in our Guided reading groups. These sessions focus on applying our phonic knowledge to segment and blend unfamiliar words, using intonation and expression when reading aloud (Prosody) and developing our comprehension skills to draw out the children's understanding of vocabulary, character's actions, behaviours and feelings and authorial intent.

We will also be reading more SAT style papers to develop reading skills further.

### Maths

Using White Rose Maths, we will be focusing on:

#### Fractions

- Parts and whole
- Equal and unequal parts
- Recognise and find a half, quarter and third
- Unit fractions and Non-unit fractions
- Equivalence of half and two quarters
- Recognise and find three-quarters
- Count in fractions

#### Time

- O'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past.
- Tell time past the hour and to the hour.
- Tell time to 5 minutes
- Minutes and hours in a day.

### RE

#### To the ends of the Earth

This half term the children will be learning about the events from the Resurrection of Jesus to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

We will learn about the gospel of St Luke, and will retell the story of the Conversion of Saul. The children will then be able to recognise the description of the fruits of the Spirit as written in one of St Paul's letters and make links between the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the lives of some saints or holy people.

Our Catholic Social Teaching focus throughout the half term is Preferential Option for the Poor.



### PE

PE will be taught on Thursday. Children should come to school dressed in their school PE kit, thank you.



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### Science

Using our Little Evie in the Wild Wood story, the children will investigate our topic question

**"How old are the trees around us?"**

The children will be learning more about what the best conditions are for plants to grow, how the different parts of a plant function and the similarities and differences between a flowering plant and trees, plus we will be trying to work out how old some of the trees in our school field are.

### Design and Technology

Inspired by Little Evie who takes a picnic into the woods, Torside will look at existing designs for picnic food and what good examples are like.

The children will then design their own picnic food by adapting an existing recipe before using cooking techniques such as chopping, grating, baking etc to make their design. We will then enjoy a special picnic sharing our food with each other and evaluating the finished products.

### Computing

This half term the children will explore how music can make them think and feel. They will make patterns and use those patterns to make music with both percussion instruments and digital tools. They will also create different rhythms and tunes, using the movement of animals for inspiration. Finally, learners will share their creations and compare creating music digitally and non-digitally.

### How can you help?

- I will continue to send out homework on Monday to be completed and returned to school the following Monday. This work relates to work that the children will be completing in class that week so is great practise for them, and also nice for you to see what they are learning about.
- Each Friday there will be new spellings sent home for the children to practise. These spellings relate to phonic work the children complete in class, however they will definitely benefit from the extra practise at home. Use Spelling Shed for a range of games that practise the week's spellings.
- Reading at home five times a week is a great way to improve your child's confidence and reading skills. Their reading books are sent home after we have read them in school so they will already be familiar with them. School library books are also sent home regularly and can be changed when your child asks. These books are for sharing together. Please ensure reading diaries are signed every time your child reads their reading book, shares their library book or practises their spellings.

Thank you for everything you do to support your child at home. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Mrs Barry