



A PLACE OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE  
WITH CHRIST AT ITS CENTRE

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Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to Fisherman Class! I hope you had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the term ahead as much as we are. We have been busy preparing the classroom and activities in school to ensure that your child has the best start to their first, second or third year in school. For those of you that are just joining us, we are delighted to be welcoming you to St Mary's.

### Teachers

Name	Role	Teaching Days	Contact
Mrs Vale	Class Teacher	Monday-Thursday	<a href="mailto:Samantha.vale@stmarysalw.net">Samantha.vale@stmarysalw.net</a>
Mrs Morgan	Senior Teacher/SENCo	Friday	<a href="mailto:Denise.Morgan@stmarysalw.net">Denise.Morgan@stmarysalw.net</a>
Mrs Tetto-Pretti	Teaching Assistant/Rising Stars	Monday-Friday	

### Science/ Understanding the World

Throughout the year, the children will be learning about and observing the changing seasons and corresponding weather. This term we will also be focusing on learning about Habitats. In this unit the children will learn to identify some life processes which indicate that animals and plants are alive. They will then identify and sort objects and organisms into groups: living and non-living things. The children will find out what a habitat is, and what animals and plants need to survive in them. The children will identify characteristics of animals which give clues about the habitats they live in. They will then discuss what a variety of habitats are like, then either describe what they provide for the organisms that live in them, or how organisms are adapted to suit their habitat. They will learn about micro-habitats and the organisms that live in them. The children will begin to understand how organisms in a habitat are dependent upon one another, and that these dependencies can be shown as food chains. They will then make food chains from a given set of organisms.

### R.E.

This term the children will be learning about New Beginnings. As part of this, we will focus on some of the new beginnings that we experience, such as starting school or welcoming new siblings to the family. We will also look at the morning prayers that we say to begin our day, and have a go at writing some of our own morning prayers. We will then learn about how the world began with the Story of Creation. Next, the children will learn about Signs and Symbols, and then as we lead up to Christmas, the children will learn about 'Preparations' and the importance of preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

### Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Development

Our focus for this term is on New Beginnings and Wellbeing as the children make the transition into school, some of them for the first time. As part of this, we will focus on encouraging secure relationships with teachers and peers to blossom to enable the children to feel confident and secure in their new environment.

### Geography/History/Understanding the world

During our first Geography unit the children will be learning all about China. This unit will teach your class about the geography of China through focusing on the main human and physical features of the country, extending children's knowledge of the world. Children will learn about the geographical similarities and differences between China and the United Kingdom. Children continue to build on their map skills using atlases, world maps and globes more widely, along with using webcams, online mapping programmes and interpreting a range of information. The children will also learn about some of the culture and traditions and have an opportunity to try some Chinese food. Next term we will be learning about World War II and Remembrance, during which the children will find out about Walter Tull and his life and times;

the differences between then and now; how Walter Tull has been remembered; soldiers' experiences in the First World War; the role of animals in the war; the experiences of women; and how Remembrance Day is marked.

### **Music**

In **Music** the children will be learning to sing 'Hands, Feet, Heart' and play and musical accompaniment. Later, we will learn to sing, play and dance in a Nativity production for a Christmas performance.

### **Art and DT**

We are starting the year with Nature Sculptures. The children will learn about the concept of nature sculpture. The children will have the opportunity to learn about different kinds of nature sculptures and to explore the work of Andy Goldsworthy and other environmental artists. Each lesson in the unit focuses on a different technique using natural materials; model making, observational drawing, collecting material, ephemeral land art and group sculpture building. At the end of the unit children will create a multimedia collage to bring together and celebrate their work. Next term, the DT unit will be Pirate Paddy's Packed Lunch Problems which gives the children the opportunity to develop their understanding of structures. The exploration of different types of lunch boxes gives children the experience and information to draw on when developing their own ideas. The children create their ideas following the design criteria, given at the beginning of the project, and go on to create models from reclaimed materials. Children gain a basic understanding about how structures can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable. At the end of the unit, children test their product and suggest further improvements

### **Computing**

In this unit, the children will learn about Online Safety. We will start by learning how to safely login to the computer and the children will create their own avatars. The children will then learn to navigate the Purple Mash website safely, including how to find their work and how to explore the games. We will then move on to learn about Coding.

### **P.E (Physical Education)**

**Fisherman Class will have P.E on Thursday afternoon outside (Games) and Friday afternoon inside (Dance).**

Please ensure your child has a P.E kit in school every day (they will be sent home at half term for washing!)

**P.E Kits should consist of:** St. Mary's T-Shirt, black shorts, trainers, black plimsolls, red fleece/hoodie (or St. Mary's hoodie), black tracksuit bottoms.

### **Forest School**

We are delighted to be able to offer the children in Fisherman Class a weekly Forest School session this half term. The session will be run by qualified Forest School leaders from Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre. The sessions will start next Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September and will run until half term. Children must be wearing comfortable trousers for the sessions; no skirts or dresses are permitted. Please provide your child with some waterproof trousers, a waterproof coat and some wellington boots that they can wear as required. These can stay in school for the duration of the term. If you do not have any of the necessary equipment, please speak to me as soon as possible so that we can offer some of our spares.

### **Homework**

We are delighted to be continuing with the reading challenge this year. The challenge offers an incentive for children to read at home daily by rewarding them with prizes and certificates at each milestone they reach. Children have opportunities to win prizes and collect house points to earn an extra reward for their house at the end of the year. Please support your child by encouraging them to read daily at home and tick off their progress in the Reading Challenge Passport. All children in years 1 and 2 have been given a new reading book this week to share at home. Children in Reception will be given reading books towards the end of this half term, but they can still join in the Reading Challenge by listening to a story at home.

Children in years 1 and 2 will be given spellings to learn at home weekly. Spelling tests will be conducted on a Thursday and new spellings given.

Children in year 2 will be given a weekly maths or English homework sheet to complete. These will be given out on a Thursday and must be handed in the following Thursday.

All children are invited to complete a small project around one of the following headings:

Reception: All About Me

Years 1 and 2: Habitats **OR** China

The projects should be handed in the first week after half term, the week commencing Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October. The children can present their learning in which ever way they choose – for example, a poster/picture, a model, a PowerPoint or just sharing 3 facts that they have learnt. They should not be onerous or take too long to complete. I hope you enjoy sharing the task with your children as a way to discuss what they are learning about at school.



### **Read Write Inc Phonics**

Most children in Fisherman Class will have daily phonic sessions to teach them key skills for reading and writing. They will bring home a phonic sound book (Reception) or reading book (Year One and Two) every day so that they can share their learning with you. The sound book will be dated to indicate which sound has been taught in school that day. Please ensure that the sound books are kept in your child's book bag when not in use as they will be used in school regularly. Please date and comment in your child's school planner when they have shared their new sound with you or if they have read to you.

### **Snack and Milk**

All children in Fisherman Class are provided with a healthy snack each day that is enjoyed in the morning with a story. If your child does not like the fruit that is offered they are welcome to bring a healthy alternative. Please note that crisps, chocolate sweets and biscuits will not be permitted. Children are also offered milk until the turn 5 for free. Once your child has turned 5, they can still have milk at snack but it must be paid for by the parents at a subsidised rate. Please see the attached letter from Cool Milk for more information about how you can pay for your child's school milk should you wish to.

### **Information Evening**

Mrs Vale will be hosting an Information next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September immediately after school. All parents are warmly invited to attend so that we can share more information with you about the forthcoming academic year, statutory assessments, Read Write Inc. Phonics, and answer any questions that you may have. We hope that you are able to attend, but if not please get in touch or speak to one of us at the end of the school day if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support as we look forward to an exciting year!

Mrs Vale and Mrs Morgan  
Fisherman Class Teachers