



Curriculum Information Year 2 2016-17



“St Mary’s aims to develop the talents of each pupil as a unique individual whose full potential can be developed in a community which has Christ at its centre.”

Our Core Mission & Values:



As our School Mission Statement states: St Mary's aims to develop the skills and talents of all its pupils, in a nurturing family environment, which has Christ's living example of love at the heart of everything we do. As a thriving Catholic Christian school community, we have a unique and privileged position in living out this Mission: facilitating outstanding learning opportunities for our pupils; promoting values of empathy, tolerance and respect; being a living embodiment of 'church' for our wider school community.

Our Vision:

A Vision of Growth from St Catherine of Siena:

"Be who God means you to be and you will set the world on fire."

The vision of St Mary's RC Primary School is as a hub of excellence in all we do: Educational Excellence, in our Teaching and Learning, in the formative Faith experiences we help facilitate for our pupils and wider school family, and in the way in which we strive to build God's Kingdom in our local and global community, piece by piece. By each member of our school family being encouraged, supported and inspired to live and work to the absolute fullness of their potential, our school will continue to be a beacon of educational, spiritual and community excellence for all to see.

Our Commitments to Excellence and Growth:

As a community dedicated to excellence and growth in all we do, we commit to striving towards being the absolute best we can be. As a learning community, we have the highest expectations of our pupils, and as such, hold ourselves to account by the highest standards. Our home school partnership aims to outline the commitments we make towards one another, in order that we may best meet the needs of all pupils in our school. As a learning community, we strive to work as closely as possible with the parents and carers of our young people, as initial educators, to support and encourage educational, social, moral, physical and spiritual growth and development. Through choosing the family of St Mary's for your child's education, you are choosing to enter in to a partnership which strives to support, encourage, empathise and enable, and one of which we hope to all be proud.

Our Curriculum:



At St Mary's, we strive to offer a broad and balanced Curriculum, based on firm groundings, which inspires, motivates and supports, and is delivered by highly skilled Teachers and support staff. We are committed to excellence in all we do, and the promotion of growth and development of each individual child.

The principles of the St Mary's Curriculum are as follows:



Curriculum Subjects:

Our Core Curriculum consists of Religious Education, English (Reading, Writing – including Phonics, and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling), Mathematics and Science. Alongside this, pupils will access a Foundation Curriculum based on half-termly topics, in Humanities (History and Geography), Computing, Art and Design Technology, Music, Computing, Physical Education and Languages. Each Term, parents/carers will receive a Curriculum overview of the key learning objectives in each curriculum area.

Extended Learning Opportunities:

Alongside our Core and Foundation Curriculum, pupils will access a rich wider range of learning opportunities which we call our Extended Learning Opportunities. These centre on the key areas of: Information and Communication Technology, Arts and Culture, Global Citizenship and the Rights Respecting Agenda, Outdoor Learning, Sport and Exercise. You will see these outlined in each class' termly Curriculum Map.

Whole-School Learning Weeks:



As a way of enriching the pupils' learning experiences in school, each half-term we 'collapse' our Foundation Curriculum for one week for pupils to engage in a whole school learning focus. These weeks aim to foster in our pupils a thirst for knowledge, a creative outlook and a love of learning. This year's themes are:

| TERM | LEARNING FOCUS |
|----------|---|
| Autumn 1 | Rights Respecting Week for Change |
| Autumn 2 | STEM Week (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) |
| Spring 1 | Global Citizenship – Kenya |
| Spring 2 | Mission Week |
| Summer 1 | History Explorers |
| Summer 2 | Creative Arts Week |

Extra-Curricular Activity

As a learning community, we believe passionately that our pupils should also receive opportunities to develop skills and talents outside of the school curriculum. The programme for the up-coming year is as follows (**external personnel**):

| Activity | Available to | Lead by |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| School Choir | Years 2 - 6 | Mrs Sanderson |
| Sports Clubs (varying) | All KS2 | Mr Colling and Mrs Joyce |
| Cycling Club | Year 5 | Mr Colling (& Ben Tweedie) |
| Mini-Vinnies | Year 4 | Mrs McTernan (& Mrs Salmon) |
| Reading Club | Years 5 and 6 | Mrs Ledger |
| School Librarians | Years 5 and 6 | Mrs Norman |
| Art Ambassadors | TBC | Mrs Pomeroy |
| Gardening Club | TBC | Mrs Gardner and Mrs Recchia |
| School Council and Rights Respecting Ambassadors | Years 2 - 6 | Mr Wheatley and Mr Colling |
| Tennis Club | KS1 and 2 | Blaydon Tennis Club |
| Happy Feet Dance | KS1 and 2 | Nicola Liddle |
| Irish Dancing | Y1 - 6 | Kelly Hendry |
| Gymnastics | KS1 and 2 | Julie & team |

Routines for Year 2:



Each day begins with a Guided Reading Carousel. During this time, children will continue to build upon spelling, phonics and reading skills.

English and Maths are taught in the mornings each day.

RE, Science and foundation subject work is carried out in the afternoons.

PE will be on a Monday afternoon with Mrs Dobson. Miss Snowdon also delivers ICT and Art in Year 2.

The class are supported by Mrs Brearton in the morning and Mrs Norman in the afternoon.

Homework is sent out on a Thursday. This consists of a piece writing, a maths task and spellings to learn. These spellings will be tested on a Thursday. All homework should be returned on Monday or Tuesday.

Reading books will also be sent home, but on a different day depending on your child's reading group. Please ensure your child brings in their book and reading diary that day.

Unicorns: Monday Fauns: Tuesday Elves: Wednesday
Pixies: Thursday Gnomes: Friday

Children are encouraged to read at home every day. Children will be provided with reading books each week from the colour banded book schemes at school. They are also encouraged to be reading other books at home. Children are given a 'Reading Record' book so that reading activity at home can be logged. This can be by an adult or your child.

It is essential to read regularly with your child.

What's Special in Year 2:



End of Key Stage One Assessments, also known as SATs, are taken by all Year 2 children in May. These assessments help to inform teacher assessment. Teacher judgements are made using ongoing assessments throughout the year. These are the assessments:

- English Paper 1: combined reading and answer booklet.
- English Paper 2: reading booklet and reading answer booklet
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling paper 1: spelling
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling paper 2: questions
- Mathematics Paper 1- arithmetic Test
- Mathematics Paper 2- reasoning Test
- There is no writing test, but this is still assessed by the teacher.

There will be a separate meeting with details about these assessments in the coming term (**Monday 31st October 2016, 4:30pm**). For now it's useful to know that although they are tested formally, teacher assessment makes the final judgement.

At the end of Year 2, Parents will receive teacher assessment information informing you if your child has met the expectations of the Year 2 or not met the expectations of Year 2.

