



Curriculum Information Year 4 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 4:



With the exception of Fridays, each day begins with a 30 minute session of Guided Reading during which pupils carry out activities in grammar, comprehension and handwriting whilst the teacher works with a small focus group to develop reading skills. This is followed by an English and Maths session each day.

On **Fridays**, Year 4 go swimming, then have PE, so will need to ensure they have the appropriate kit for each of these activities. This is the child's responsibility. For swimming, this includes a towel, goggles, a swimming cap (if needed) and a bather or swimming trunks (not the longer style boardshorts.) Children will need their usual PE kit including a pair of trainers as they will be having lessons outside, unless the weather is adverse.

Homework

Homework is given out with the pupils' blue bags each **Thursday** to be returned the following **Monday**. In Year 4, children will receive one piece of English and one piece of Maths homework each week. On alternate weeks, the Maths homework will be an online activity using Abacus Active Learn and the children will need to use their previous year's Abacus password to log on. A reminder of the children's username and password will be sent out at the beginning of term.

Please encourage your child to present their work as they would in class, using a pencil for Maths and pen only for English homework.

Homework will always follow on from learning in class, so although supporting your child with their homework is greatly beneficial, they should be able to complete it with increasing independence. Children should be encouraged to be determined and resilient in their approach to learning, even when they find some aspects of a task difficult. If your child is really struggling with their homework (and you are tearing your hair out!), it is far better to leave it and write a comment in their homework book to let us know.

Spellings

A spelling list will be sent out with homework on Thursdays and will be tested on these the following Tuesday. Spellings will follow the recommended patterns and letter strings in the Year Four curriculum, beginning with consolidation of sounds and growing progressively more challenging throughout the year.

Reading Diaries

Year Four children will be becoming increasingly more independent in their reading and it is still as important as ever that they read regularly so that they continue to develop and hone their reading skills. Any reading counts, whether it is a novel, comic, children's newspaper or website, as this will give them an understanding of the different genres and text types we will be looking at in English lessons.

Children will be given a diary so that they can keep a log of the texts they are reading at home and in class. These should be returned to school each **Thursday** for the class teacher to sign, with children remembering to return their diaries (earning a small reward!).

What's Special in Year 4:



First Holy Communion

Throughout Year 4, children who have been Baptised, and whose parents would like to support them in making the next steps in their Sacramental journey, will undergo preparation (catechesis) for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. The Sacramental Preparation sessions will take place alongside Curriculum RE, with many of the themes of both programmes being shared. The class will be supported by Mrs McTernan, as well as Catechists from the parish community. The celebration of Reconciliation will take place during Advent, with the children making their First Holy Communion the following June. Further information will be given during an initial meeting early in the Autumn Term.

There will be an initial meeting on **Wednesday 28th September** at 5pm.

Swimming

All Year 4 children have weekly swimming lessons throughout the year at Dunston Swimming Baths. Pupils will be assessed by Swimming Instructors at the baths and grouped accordingly. As well as improving swimming proficiency and confidence, the pupils will receive instruction in developing stroke technique and basic life-saving and water safety awareness. Pupils will not be permitted to stay in school, or sit on the poolside, due to illness. If pupils forget to bring in their swimming kit, school will provide a spare. If your child returns home with a spare, please wash and return all kit by the Monday of the following week.

Music

Teachers from Gateshead Music Service (Mrs Cuggy and Mrs Watson) visit school each Monday to deliver tuition in stringed instruments. Each Year 4 pupil will learn to play either cello, viola or violin as an ensemble or 'mini orchestra'! Later on in the term, the children will be able to take their selected instrument home to practice and must bring it to school each Monday morning.

Weekly Timetable:

Y4	9 - 9.30	9.30 - 10.30	10.30 10.45	10.45 - 11.45	12.00 1.00	1.00 - 2.00	2.00-3.15	AFTER SCHOOL	
Monday	Collective Worship	Guided Reading ICT	Break		Break			Music (String tuition)	Staff Meeting
Tuesday	Guided Reading	Maths	English RS	English	RE			RE	Directed Time
Wednesday	Guided Reading	Maths CD	English RS	English	KSZ Liturgy 1-120	Science	Science		
Thursday	Guided Reading	Maths	English	English	Topic History/Geography			Topic Art/DT	
Friday		Swimming (PPA Cover)	French AI	PE CD	RE			RE	Celebration Assembly 2.45