Lindisfarne Class Newsletter November 2017

We hope everyone in Lindisfarne has had an enjoyable and restful half term holiday. We certainly have a busy half term ahead – lots of new topics and learning objectives, and dare we say it... preparing for our Christmas production!

Religious Education - Come & See
We continue with our topic about Signs and Symbols as an important part of everyday life and those that are expressed in our Catholic faith. In particular we will be learning about the symbols of Baptism. Following on will be a topic about ‘Preparing’, focusing on getting ready during the period of Advent, to welcome Jesus at Christmas. The children will be learning to retell the stories of the Annunciation, the Visitation and the Nativity; they will be learning about the customs of Advent and how we follow Jesus as the light of the world. We will also have our ‘Travelling Crib’ that children will bring home to share with their families every day during Advent.

Literacy
Our literacy work this half term will continue our exploration of stories in familiar settings using the theme of ‘Cats’ beginning with ‘The Lion in the Meadow by Margaret Mahy’. The children will be developing their understanding of story structure and ability to write consistently in the narrative form. We will be using the story of ‘The Tiger who came to Tea’ for text comparison and the stories of ‘Slobcat’ and ‘Kit and Cat’ to explore the secret lives of cats. Using the theme of cats we will be continuing our work, learning about instructional texts and exploring non-fiction (looking at animal reference books). We will also be continuing our poetry topic: ‘Patterns on the Page’. This is a really enjoyable unit of work and looks at shape poems, word play and list poems, as well as poems with strong rhyme and rhythm that the children can learn by heart - such as ‘The Owl and the Pussy Cat.’ ‘Big Writing’ will continue on Fridays with ‘Talk Homework’ being set every Wednesday in preparation for their writing. Many thanks for all the hard work in supporting ‘Talk Homework’ - it really does pay dividends in their writing. (Remember talk homework requires no writing.)

Numeracy
In Numeracy we will be continuing our work using our ‘Maths Makes Sense’ approach. In arithmetic pupils will be taught how to complete columnar addition and subtraction (using up to 4 digit numbers), including ‘tricky’ units columns that need regrouping. They will continue to learn how to add, subtract, multiply and divide 1 digit numbers including zero, halves and quarters. Pupils will learn how to use their understanding of number to create embellished maths stories and solve problems. We will continue our work recognising the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. In geometry pupils will develop their understanding of symmetry, naming and measuring 2D shapes (in millimetres), learning the symbol for a turn and knowing that a quarter turn is a right angle. In data and measures we will be revising how to tell the time to the quarter hour using analogue and digital clock, we will be selecting and using tools to measure length (cm and m), mass (g and kg) and volume (ml). Children continue to be set number facts and times tables to learn for check-up tests on Mondays. The fast recall of number facts is essential in the development of mental calculation skills, it is better to consolidate and really learn their facts rather than move on too quickly and so we repeat and revisit these facts throughout our maths sessions.
Topics - Fizz Bang!
Our overall theme for this half term is 'Fizz Bang!' and much of our topic work will be driven by learning about The Great Fire of London - our History topic. The children will be finding out when, where and how the fire began, how it spread and how it changed London. They will be learning how to put events in chronological order and how to use a variety of sources to learn about The Great Fire. In Computing we will be learning how to research our topic safely using the internet - recognising the importance of 'safe surfing', taking care with their personal details and reporting anything that makes them feel uncomfortable when using a computer. In Science the children will be learning about the uses of everyday materials including: brick, rock, wood, plastic, paper, metal and glass (thinking about how materials in homes have changed since The Great Fire). They will be identifying and comparing materials according to their properties and setting up an investigation to find out which is the best material to make a bucket to carry water for putting out a fire. They will be learning about flammable materials and about fire safety.
In Music we will be working hard, learning the songs for our Christmas production.

School Uniform/PE Kit:
It is essential that each child has their own, clearly named, PE kit with them for our weekly sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays (including a plain dark tracksuit and outdoor trainers/plimsolls, for outdoor PE in the colder weather). Thank you.

Reminders - Reading, Spellings and Homework:
Guided Reading to the teacher will take place weekly, and we endeavour to create regular opportunities to read to other adults in school. We hope that children continue to read regularly at home and that parents, carers or children note when they have read and how they have done, in their reading diaries. It's very helpful to know if, for example, they really enjoyed a particular story and would like similar texts, or if they struggled with any particular words etc.
Spellings and Numbers for the half term are again given in their spelling book; this ensures that each child has their spellings/numbers even if they are absent. Spelling/number tests will be on Mondays. A new homework project will be set, in your child's talk homework book, to be handed in just before the Christmas break, again giving lots of time for you and your child to enjoy a learning challenge - we will be displaying work on our class project board - and on our school website. Talk homework is set on Wednesdays in preparation for Friday's Big Writing.

Web Site
Remember to check our class page on the school web-site: www.priorycatholicschool.co.uk.
We will continue to try and keep you up-to-date on our class activities, assemblies, and you may find useful newsletters and class information there as well as links to websites related to our topic work.

Some Key Diary Dates for Year 2:
Friday 1st December Year 2 trip to the theatre - 'Dear Santa' (further information to follow).
Monday 11th December 2pm - KS1 Nativity Production Dress Rehearsal at The Priory Academy
(for our fellow pupils and grandparents only)
Wednesday 13th December 2pm - KS1 Nativity Production at The Priory Academy
Thursday 14th December 6.30pm - KS1 Nativity Production at The Priory Academy
Monday 18th December KS1 Christmas Party (pm) Non-uniform
Tuesday 19th December KS1 Christmas Activity Day

Wishing everyone a productive and happy half term!
Mrs Harrison & Mrs Kelly