

January 2025



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*Executive Head: Geraldine Hampton*  
*Head of School: Tony Lynch*  
*Assistant Head: Marily Troyano*

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Happy New Year!** It is a pleasure to welcome you and your children back to St. Charles, and I look forward to working with you this Spring Term.

This term, our topics will be 'My World', 'Growth', and 'Traditional Tales'.

### **Personal, Emotional, and Social Development**

This term, children will be encouraged to develop a positive sense of self. They will set simple goals, build confidence in their abilities, learn to persist, and direct their attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will also learn to care for their bodies and manage personal needs independently.

### **Communication, Language, and Literacy**

We will continue to start each day with phonics, introducing up to four new sounds per week. A review lesson will take place every Friday. These sounds will be assigned as part of the weekly homework, which is distributed every Friday. It is crucial that children read and practice these sounds regularly at home.

#### **In our phonics lessons, we will:**

- Hear and identify sounds in words, including digraphs and trigraphs.
- Learn to read and write "Harder to Read and Spell" words and practise using them in short sentences.
- Practice letter formation, including lead-ins and lead-outs.
- Sound out and write words and sentences with growing confidence.
- Continue reading stories together as a class and individually, encouraging children to decode words and discuss their reading.

Books will be changed every Monday. We cannot change books unless the old ones are returned by the following Monday. Please ensure that your child brings their reading folder to school every day so they can read with an adult during the week.

### **Mathematics**

This term, we will continue to build a strong foundation in number skills, which are essential for mathematical success. Our learning topics will include:

- Addition and subtraction within ten
- Grouping and sharing
- Number patterns up to 15
- Doubling and halving
- Understanding shape and patterns
- Calendar and time concepts

*Love God Love Your Neighbour*

## **Understanding Our World**

During the Spring Term, children will explore various stories, non-fiction books, rhymes, and poems. These resources will help them understand their world and community by providing opportunities to explore, observe, and learn about people, places, technology, and the environment.

## **Religious Education**

Our RE topics are:

Galilee to Jerusalem - Children will learn about the visit of the Magi to baby Jesus with gifts and how Jesus blessed little children and feed the 5000. They will learn that Jesus takes care of everyone and that we should show love to everyone like Jesus. We will focus on the Glory Be as a special prayer.

Desert to Garden - Children will learn about Lent and how it is a time to care for others. They will learn that Jesus died on the cross, was given a new life by God his Father and rose again. They think about how they can help others and live out the great commandment 'Love God, Love your Neighbour'.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Creative activities will be connected to our topics, encompassing art, music, and role-play. Music lessons will take place weekly, and children will have the opportunity to experiment with various media such as clay, play dough, and paint.

## **Physical Development**

PE lessons will be every Monday. This term, children will work with coaches and focus on dance and gymnastics, so please ensure they come in wearing their PE kit. We will also continue to develop fine motor skills, emphasizing correct pencil grip and safe scissors usage.

## **Music**

In "Singing Skills 2: Match my Voice," Reception children continue their exploration of singing and pitch-matching. With focus on pitch-matching, children delve deeper into understanding and controlling their singing voices. They learn to match their voices with different pitches, fostering musical expression and vocal confidence. Reception students will be able to engage with rhymes, poems, nursery rhymes and songs, expressing their feelings and thoughts through music whilst enhancing language skills.

## **Important Dates:**

- Reading books are changed every Monday.
- Reading books should be brought to school daily.
- Homework will be assigned every Friday and should be returned the following Friday.
- PE day is Monday.

Thank you for your continued support. When school and home work together, children truly benefit. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns, either after pick-up or via the school office.

Yours sincerely,  
Ms Almasri