



# Autumn 2020 Class Newsletter Ireland

Class Teacher: Mrs Benson

## Welcome back to school!

Oh my goodness me! What a roller-coaster of a ride we've had over the past six months. Hopefully your children are settling back into school nicely. Here is a brief outline of the topics we will be covering and some helpful points to note for this Autumn term.

### Important dates for Ireland class:

- Stone Age Forest Schools - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September
- Meet the teacher zoom meeting - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 4pm
- INSET day - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October
- Half Term - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October
- Parents' evening zoom meeting - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November & Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November
- Last day of term - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

P.E. - the children will be doing P.E. on a Thursday morning each week. The Thursday outdoor games session will be taught by Mrs Burbidge who has returned to St Mary's following maternity leave.

We will be using cricket to develop our striking and fielding skills. We will be getting better at batting over longer distances, practising throwing with greater control and accuracy, gathering the ball in different ways and developing an effective overarm bowl. In Athletics we will be demonstrating how different running techniques improve performance, combining running with jumping hurdles, developing techniques for the standing long jump and practising push throws with increasing control.

We will continue to hold as many P.E sessions outside whilst the weather permits. Our second P.E. session will be on a Wednesday.

Please ensure that the correct P.E. kit is brought in and remains in school during the week at all times. P.E. kit will be sent home every Friday to give you the opportunity to have it cleaned and returned to school again the following Monday.

All kit must be clearly named, long hair must be tied back and earrings must be removed for PE sessions. Children should have the correct P.E. kit as per the school uniform policy. This includes, a white P.E. shirt, dark shorts, suitable sports trainers, long dark track suit bottoms and a jumper for outdoors in a named PE kit bag.

*\*We are unable to loan any P.E. kit to children nor are they permitted to borrow P.E. kit and trainers from other children in the school.*

**Homework:** We expect ALL children to submit homework.

- Reading logs - please ensure you listen to, or monitor, your child reading *three times per week* and this is signed and dated in their reading log. Now your child is in Key Stage 2 we will encourage them to write in their reading logs as independently as possible. This will form an important part of my assessment for reading, and is a key dialogue between home and school. Reading logs will be collected in *every Monday* and returned to the children on Wednesday after being in a box for 48 hours to quarantine.
- Weekly spellings - these will be sent home on a Monday and tested the following Monday. Spelling lists will be emailed out and the orange spelling book will remain in school.
- Homework - this will be given out each term in a grid format, with one piece expected in from your child each week. They may choose which activities they may like to complete. **Homework books MUST remain at home.** Homework can be photographed and sent to the teacher via class email. [nz@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:nz@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk)

**Theme for the term - The Stone Age**

Our theme for this term is all about the Stone Age and we will be discovering lots about who lived in the Stone Age and what their lives were like. Our Literacy and History units will be based around our topic work and much of our work in other subjects will link to the theme where possible. We will be kicking off our topic with a Stone Age Forest Schools session on Wednesday 16th September, details of which you should have already received.

**English** - We will be using a range of texts to help our writing this year and will also be continuing to use Talk For Writing throughout all of our Literacy lessons. Here are the main themes we will follow during the term:

Theme
Instructions
Reports
Half term
Stories with familiar settings
Shape Poetry and Calligrams
Poems to Perform

**Maths** - Work will always be differentiated to suit the needs of the child. We will be following the White Rose Maths Scheme. Our themes for this term will be:

Theme
Number and Place Value
Addition and Subtraction
Multiplication and Division
Half Term
Multiplication and Division

- We will be continuing to use TT Rockstars to support our Times Tables learning. This has shown significant improvements in the children's fluency and speed of recall. Please do encourage your children to practise their Times Tables at home on a weekly basis. At the end of last term, letters were sent out introducing My Maths, an interactive online program to support Maths learning. This provides the children with the opportunity to link homework activities to their class based learning and enable them to consolidate the skills that have been taught. Please ask if you have any questions regarding this.

**Science** - We will study two main themes this term. Before half term we will be studying rocks and fossils, and during the second half of term we will focus on forces and magnets.

**Computing** - Our focus for Computing this term will be on computer coding and e-safety.

R.E. - We will start our RE learning by studying the Creation story and what Christians learn from it before moving on to looking at what the Trinity is. Finally, we will learn about Hinduism and the story of Rama and Sita.

### **Relationship & Health Education (RHE).**

Although as a school we have already been teaching this subject throughout all year groups, this has now become statutory to be taught in all schools. This term we will be learning about the harmful effects of drugs and tobacco; and how to recognise bullying. All lessons are age-appropriate and tailored specifically to the year group.

Art - At the beginning of this term our Art will be linked to our Stone Age topic work. We will then be investigating different patterns, linked to our work in Maths on shape.

Music - Our music topic this term is Play it Again. Children will be exploring and performing different rhythmic patterns, including Christmas poems and songs.

D&T - Our DT work will be linked to our topic work where we will be making Stone Age jewellery. We will be designing our own items and then creating them using string, clay and shells.

History - In our History we will be looking at the Stone Age with specific relevance to hunters and gatherers. We will focus on a Stone Age village discovered in Scotland, and expand our knowledge on how and where people lived in the Stone Age.

MFL - Our Modern Foreign Language is Spanish and the children will be learning Spanish each week with Mrs Vanieris.

### **Other Important Information**

**COVID-19** - As a school we have been making a concerted effort to ensure you are well informed regarding the school's procedures and practices that we are implementing as a direct result of the pandemic of COVID-19. Please ensure you continue to read the school newsletters and email correspondence.

**Social Distancing** - Please continue to support social distancing by reminding your children that this is still a requirement within the school. We are encouraging the children to interact with each other but at a safe distance as is currently advised.

**Contact** - Unfortunately during such unprecedented times I am unable to meet with parents or carers in person. However, should you have ANY concerns, please contact me via the class email address:

[ireland@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:ireland@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk)

Or via Class Dojo;

Or via the school office.

**Allergies** - We are a nut-free school. We politely request that you ensure your children do not bring nuts into school as a snack or in their packed lunches. This includes any food item that may contain nuts.

**Snacks** - Please ensure your child brings a suitable fruit or vegetable snack for their break. Unsuitable items such as large chocolate bars and crisps are not considered to be a healthy snack and will be removed.

**Written permission** - Written permission is required annually from you should your child need to be collected from school by an alternative adult, for example, someone who would be picking up your child from school on an ad-hoc basis. This includes parents of other children to whom your child may be going on a play date. We do not allow siblings under the age of 16 to collect from school without written request by you and acceptance from the school. This information should be directed to the School Office and not the class email address.

**Bullying in School** - We have been asked to mention our anti-bullying policy. Bullying of any kind, both physical and emotional, is not tolerated in our school. Bullying is 'the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power'. It can happen face to face or online.

I appreciate there has been an awful lot of additional information to contend with of late, and hopefully you have found my newsletter helpful.

If you have any concerns please feel free to speak with me via the class email [ireland@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk](mailto:ireland@stmarysprimarypulborough.co.uk), or ring the school on 01798 872007.

Kind regards,

Mrs Benson  
Ireland Class Teacher  
RHE Subject Lead  
School Council