

The Cathedral School of St Mary

Cecil Street
Stonehouse

Adventurers Class - Newsletter

September 2023

Welcome Back

Hello families! It is lovely to have you all back with us as we begin a new school year. I hope that you have all been well, enjoyed the summer break and made lots of memories and that the children are raring and ready to go as part of Adventurers Class. Obviously, the children may have mixed emotions



about returning to school but rest assured, we will do our very best to make sure they settle quickly and make the most of the learning opportunities we have planned for them. Successful learning is built on good home / school communication and so If you have any questions or would just like some reassurance over your child and their school journey, please get in touch either through ClassDojo or via emailing me:

t.driscoll@plymouthcast.com. Failing this you can always contact the school office and leave a message for me there.

Adventurers Class is supported by a team of adults, each of whom are dedicated to ensuring that your child receives the best pastoral and academic education possible. Mrs Gills will be the class teaching assistant working with all of the children in both Adventurers Class and Navigators Class. Mrs Ellard remains a big part of the Adventurers Class team however she will also be shared with other classes during some of the afternoon sessions. She will be working predominantly with our Pupil Premium children. Every Tuesday afternoon, the children will be taught by Mrs Peard and by sports coaches from TGS. Finally we have several volunteers who will be coming in to help the children with their

work. Many of these volunteers are ex-teachers and we are incredibly fortunate that they are willing to give up their time to help the children.

Important notices

PE: PE kits will need to be worn to school on **Tuesdays**. Please ensure that the children wear the school PE kit: **white t-shirt, black shorts / leggings**. I recommend that the children wear trainers as these will be more comfortable for the duration of the day but please do not allow your child to wear trainers that they feel are too expensive for them to exercise in. Please ensure that all school clothing is washed on a regular basis and shoes are cleaned where possible.

Swimming: Our **year 3** children will be taking part in swimming lessons between 15th April and the 3rd May at Plymouth Life Centre. There will be more information posted in the coming weeks.

Class Dojo: Please ensure that you all have access to your child's Class Dojo account. Here you will be able to keep up-to-date with latest news and events regarding whole school activities, as well as day-to-day life in the classroom. You will also be able to message me from your account which I check on a daily basis during weekdays. If you need a new login, please let me know. Please note, to report an absence, please contact the office directly.

Homework: In Adventurers Class, there is an expectation that the children will read on a daily basis and have this reading listened to and recorded in their reading record. If a child forgets their book or finishes a book quickly, we encourage them to find another piece or text that they can read at home in addition to the school book. This can be anything from a gaming magazine, to a sporting review to a recipe book!

In addition to reading, each child is also expected to practise their spellings. Spelling will be shared on Mondays and tests will take place on Thursdays. In order to support them with their times tables facts, the children will also be expected to login to Times Table Rock Stars on a weekly basis. Finally, the children will also be set a piece of grammar or maths homework once a week on IXL. If homework is not completed to the standard that they are capable of, children may be asked to have another go. If your child needs support at any stage, please encourage them to speak to me.

Google Classroom: This is our online platform that allows children to work anywhere they have access to the internet. We encourage all families to become familiar with and keep an eye on the classroom as this is where work and helpful resources will be shared, alongside the homework.

Monday morning Liturgy: We are happy to once again invite families to join our Monday morning Liturgies. These will be at 10:10am. We would love to see you!

Mass: The Catholic Life of the school is of paramount importance. We will be attending regular Masses at the Cathedral which you are more than welcome to join us in celebrating. Please keep an eye on Class Dojo for updates.

First Holy Communion: We had a total of 19 children make their First Holy Communion last year. If your child is interested in making this commitment, please get in touch. We usually begin lessons after Christmas. They do not need to be baptised as this can be made as part of the preparations.

Our Learning this Term

We have a very exciting term ahead of us focused around the Communication topic - 'Lightning Speed!'. This is a thematic unit based around the history and development of computers. It teaches the beginnings of networking and then the evolution of the internet. Throughout the unit we will also be focusing on the need to be safe online. We will also be welcoming a web designer into school before designing their own simple web page.

After half term, the children will be learning about Vikings, before starting our Culture topic - Come Fly With Me Africa. In this unit, the children will begin to learn about the history of slavery. We start by learning what slavery is, looking at some of the reasons behind it and examples of it.

In our **RE** lessons this term we will be looking at a new theme called Creation and Covenant. In this unit we explore God's love and care for people. We examine how, even in difficult times, God is there for us and how he wants us to succeed in following his path for us. We look at the Holy Family and the attributes they share before looking for loving role-models in our lives. After the half term we move onto our Prophecy and Promise unit where we explore and celebrate that Jesus was born in order to show God and God's love to the world.

In **English** this term we will be starting the year exploring the features of information texts with the aim of creating a technical portfolio that introduces an invention of their choice. In support of this, the children will be reading extracts from How to Invent by Lyn Huggins-Cooper, which consists of a series

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of timelines introducing a variety of ground-breaking inventions. Later in the term, the children will go on to explore poetry, focusing on *The River* by Marc Martin before creating their own poems. We complete the term by looking at fictional writing, using the Cautionary Tale of Grendel as our prompt before finishing with a non-fiction piece of writing focusing on Rainforests.

In **maths** the children will be developing further confidence in calculation using all four operations. In addition we will be working on understanding place value of whole numbers and decimals. We will also be looking at place value of numbers up to 1 million. All this work will be put into practice in our problem solving and reasoning morning tasks and our mental arithmetic sessions.

All of our **Science, History and Geography** learning will be taught in our thematic lessons.

All of our learning is underpinned by our Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning work the pupils engage in and with this in mind we will also be incorporating time for personal reflection and the development of positive personal mental health strategies.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you all better over the year and am very much looking forward to a wonderful year of learning with the new Adventurers Class.

With every good wish,

Mr Driscoll and the Adventurers Class Team