

# McAuley Class Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new school year. I hope you had a wonderful summer break and I am looking forward to working with you, and your child in the coming year. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Miss Allen, as McAuley Class' teacher and Mrs Porter and Mrs Wu who are our class teaching assistants. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the exciting new topics your child will be studying in the coming term, as well as to provide some key information about the day to day routines and procedures that will support your child in his/her learning.

## English and Maths

As I am sure you are aware, your child takes part in English and Maths lessons every day. To assist your child in their development in both of these curriculum areas, please support and encourage them to read for a minimum of twenty minutes each evening and practise their target times table every day as well as supporting them in their weekly spelling practice. Furthermore, to help your child develop their comprehension skills please support them in making an entry in their reading journal once a week; please remember to record a comment in your child's reading journal to help us monitor their progress. To ensure that books are changed regularly and are available when your child needs to read, please support your child in bringing their reading books and journal to school every day.



Your child will also receive a maths target card in the coming weeks and a leaflet containing ideas for exercises that can be completed to help them make progress in the targeted areas. Please support your child by working through their targets on a regular basis. In addition, your child will shortly be given an individual log in for the maths online revision program 'Mathletics'. Please encourage your child to utilise the online Mathletics revision programme at home using their personal log in to give them access to maths revision activities specifically set by myself to support your child's learning in mathematics.

## Science

The principal focus of science is to enable pupils to broaden their scientific view of the world around them. In our topic Forces and Magnets, they do this through exploring, talking about, testing and developing ideas about magnetic forces. They will learn about how magnets attract some materials and repel others, compare the strength of different forces, and make predictions about whether magnets will repel or attract, depending on which ways the poles face. They will also learn a range of scientific vocabulary to enable them to express their ideas when they are grouping and classifying materials and carrying out simple comparative and fair tests.



## RE

Our first topic is Home. We will explore how God is present in every home and how this is expressed in the love that binds the family together within the home through good times and bad. The children will have the opportunity to analyse key scripture related to the theme of homes and to reflect carefully upon what they can do in their day to day actions to ensure that they are always working to make their home a happy one. As part of our study of other faiths, your child will also be learning about Judaism this half term.



## Geography/ History

This half term we are beginning a brand new topic in history: 'The Railway Revolution'. Your child will learn about: To learn the ways in which people and goods were transported in the early 1700s; the difficulties with transporting goods and passengers in these ways; the reasons transport improved during the Industrial Revolution and the impact this had upon the lives of everyday people. Furthermore, they will explore how the very first steam engines worked, how the first underground railways were developed and the impact this had upon the lives of Londoners. Throughout the topic,

the children will develop their understanding of the chronology of this period and be encouraged to apply their historical enquiry skills in order to develop their knowledge and understanding.

### DT

In DT our topic is Moving Vehicles. We will begin by investigating and analysing a range of existing products. Then your child will use this knowledge to design and construct their own vehicle – a moving car. Your child will have the opportunity to evaluate their finished product against our class design criteria, consider ways to improve their work and then apply their evaluations by constructing a second model.



### Computing

During this half term, your child will develop their understanding of the principles of coding and programming. They will be developing their systematic and logical problem solving skills in a variety of different concepts through the use of CODE.org. Each week, your child will try to complete increasingly difficult coding activities and will also practise their debugging skills should their code not complete the activity correctly. Your child will develop their understanding of the principles of coding and programming, developing their systematic and logical problem solving skills in a variety of different concepts. They will be introduced to some new concepts of computer science, through an engaging mix of games, puzzles and online programming challenges. These activities will help your child to learn about concepts such as algorithms and debugging code in a fun and exciting way!



### MFL

In French this term, your child will listen to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding to stories, songs and participating in vocabulary building games. Your child will explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words. They will engage in basic conversations developing their ability to ask and answer questions.



### P.E.

This half term your child will be taking part in outdoor P.E. every **Monday**. The children will be learning and developing skills in netball. They will also have indoor P.E. every **Tuesday** where your child will be developing their gymnastic skills in our unit 'take-off, jump and land'.



In addition to this, your child will be partaking in football development lessons with David Dines, our part time sports coach, and will also need their full PE kit for this on **Friday**. Please ensure they have their full **Outdoor PE and Indoor PE** kit for all lessons, ensuring that all items of clothing are clearly marked with their full name and their class name in order to avoid loss and minimise the need for costly replacements.

### Southwark Music Service

This term years 3 and 4 will be working with staff from Southwark Music services, who will be running music sessions in school on **Tuesdays**. During these sessions the children will be learning how to play a range of percussion instruments including samba drums, to create Brazilian carnival rhythms. The sessions will involve them initially listening and responding to a range of notes then leading to them exploring and performing a range of complex sequences. The sessions will improve the children's musical competency, developing their understanding of pitch, tempo, rhythm and rhyme and composition as well as developing their physical co-ordination. The sessions demonstrate the value of diversity, increases team spirit and harmony while developing motivation and a sense of achievement. We hope you will encourage your children to make the most of this great opportunity.

Your child will also take part in weekly music lessons with our specialist music teacher, Mr Dixon, where they will learn to use their voices to sing expressively and experiment with instruments to create and combine sounds.

### **Homework**

Your child will receive English, maths, spelling and sentence homework on a weekly basis. Additional homework may be set at different times where it complements or supports work in a range of subjects across the curriculum.



Homework will be given out on a Thursday and is expected back on a Monday. Spellings are given out on a Tuesday and are expected back on a Monday. Sentences books are given out on a Wednesday and are expected back on a Monday. Reading journals are given out on a Monday and are expected back on a Thursday.

Tuesday: Spellings sent home

Wednesday: Sentences books sent home

Thursday: Homework is sent home. Reading journals are due in

Monday: Reading journals are sent home. Spellings, sentence books and homework are due in

Please support your child in managing this important part of their learning by monitoring their progress in completing their work to the best of his/her ability and within the designated time.

### **Routines**

Currently a piece of fruit is provided for all children at morning break time. Your child is still permitted to bring a piece of fruit from home each day if desired. It is important that your child brings their school water bottle, full, to school each day. If your child does not have a school water bottle, they are available from the school office for £1.50.

Please ensure any money sent into school, is enclosed in a school money pocket and detailed with the necessary information. Money pockets can be purchased from the school reception. Finally, please remember to check your child's school bag regularly for any letters which may require parental permission.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me after school.

Thank you for your support.

**Miss Allen**

McAuley Class Teacher