



## Dempsey Class Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of another half term. I hope that you have had an enjoyable and relaxing half term break. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the exciting curriculum content your child will be studying during the second half of the autumn term.

### **English and Maths**

Your child will continue to explore and learn about a variety of different subject areas in their daily English and Maths lessons. To assist your child in their development in both of these curriculum areas, please support and encourage them to read aloud at home every night, as well as rehearsing mental maths strategies and times tables facts. Your child has been given access to Mathletics which they can use to complete assigned activities as well as using Mathletics Live to practise rapid recall of number facts. We recommend that your child uses Mathletics as a revision tool to revise the learning that has taken place in class. Their Mathletics log-ins can be found in their Homework Diary and their Maths Homework Book.

### **Science**

During this half term, your child will be studying the topic of Animals Including Humans. Your child will be able to describe the stages of human development and identify physical changes within each stage, from the changes as a baby to the changes that take place in old age. They will have the opportunity to learn about the differences between the human life cycle as well as other animals, including researching the gestation periods of various animals. In this topic, your child will learn about the changes that take place during puberty, exploring the physical and emotional changes they will experience as they reach the next stage of human development.

Through this topic, your child will also develop their skills at working scientifically. This includes: conducting scientific research and presenting results; recording data using graphs and using scientifically proven evidence to explain ideas.

### **RE**

This half term your child will be learning about 'Life Choices'. They will learn that all followers of God have been given a mission and that everybody may choose different ways to live out their mission. Your child will understand that for some people, this will be through the sacrament of marriage. They will learn about the symbolism associated with marriage, including the significance of the vows and the rings. They will understand how love can be shown through a marriage, from husband to wife or from parents to children. Finally, your child will understand how people in their local community carry out their mission and the impact of this on the people of the community.

Our other topic this half term is 'Hope'. As we approach the period of Advent, your child will understand that Advent is a time of waiting in hope for Jesus's return. They will learn about how Jesus is often referred to as 'a light in the darkness' and begin to explore how this is reflected in modern culture, such as through art. Also, your child will learn about, and identify, differences in the Nativity story as shown in

the Bible. Finally, they will consider how they can use the period of Advent to complete purposeful tasks as they wait in hope.

### **Geography**

Over the course of this half term, your child will be studying the topic of 'Eastern Europe and Russia'. Alongside researching key facts about Russia, your child will be able to identify Russia and its capital city on a world map. They will learn about country and marine borders and be able to identify many of the countries which border Russia. Additionally, your child will explore both the human and physical geography of Russia and showcase their understanding through the creation of a 3D topographic map.

### **Art**

This half term, your child will explore the topic of 'Journeys' through art. They will have the opportunity to question and make thoughtful observations on examples of artwork; compare ideas, methods and approaches in their own and others' work and improve their mastery of techniques including: drawing and painting with a range of materials. For their final piece of work, they will produce a contemporary Nativity theme incorporating the theme of 'Journeys'.

### **Computing**

Throughout this half term, your child will be building on their understanding of 'Programming'. As programmers, they will use functions, loops and variables to be able to write algorithms of code. They will also explore sprites and how to move and manipulate them using programs. In addition, your child will continue to build on their understanding of the importance of being safe online. They will learn how to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly, and what to do if they experience unacceptable behaviour.

### **MFL**

In French this half term, your child will be taught by a specialist French Teacher from St Michael's Catholic College. Your child will study the topic 'Je suis le musician' (I am the music man). In this topic your child will learn the names of different musical genres and instruments; how to express their own musical preferences; to ask and answer questions related to music and how to use conjunctions to form complex sentences. Over the course of the half term, they will develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as their understanding of French grammar with a focus upon the correct use of the masculine and feminine form.

### **PE**

This half term your child will have outdoor PE every Wednesday. In these lessons, they will develop their skills in football. Your child will work on specific skills, such as passing, dribbling and shooting, before developing their awareness of attacking and defensive tactics. They will build on their understanding of key rules and how to referee a match. Finally, your child will have the opportunity to showcase their skills by participating in a full football match at the end of this half-term.

In addition, your child will also have indoor PE every Tuesday. Over the course of this half term, your child will be working towards learning a specific dance routine based on Russian Folk Dance. This will be undertaken in an explicitly balletic style, within which your child will have the opportunity to learn traditional ballet positions, technique and etiquette. Linking closely to our Geography topic on Eastern Europe

and Russia, your child's final dance routine will be set to music by famed Russian Composer Tchaikovsky.

Your child will also partake in football development lessons with Mr Dines, our sports coach, and will therefore need a full PE kit for this on Fridays. Please ensure that your child has their full outdoor PE kit for all lessons, ensuring that all items of clothing are clearly marked with their full name and their class name.

Please send in your child's PE kit into school on a Monday, and this will be sent home on a Friday so that it can be used throughout their PE learning during the week.

### **PSHE**

As we begin the half term, your child will explore how they can be a good citizen in the community by learning how to stay safe around fireworks and protect those around them. They will also learn about the importance of taking care of their environment, exploring how they can make changes to their life to have a positive effect on climate change.

Also, this half term your child will explore the topic of Relationships. They will learn about the importance of privacy within relationships and reflect on the information they should keep private as well as the parts of their body that are private. Your child will understand the importance of good friendships and the qualities needed to achieve them, including the need to establish healthy boundaries in all relationships. Additionally, your child will continue to learn about the values within our school environment and beyond as they explore the issue of bullying. Finally, your child will learn about how to recognise safe family relationships and understand how to seek advice if they feel their concerns are not being listened to.

### **Homework**

Your child will continue to receive Maths homework and a Reading Journal each Thursday so that you have an opportunity to look over it with them and they can ask questions on a Friday, if there is anything they do not understand. Maths homework is always linked to the work that has been carried out in class, may revise a previous topic and provides your child with a valuable opportunity to share and consolidate the learning that has taken place in school. Their Reading Journal is an opportunity for your child to be creative and is a means to give their teacher an insight into their personal reading book and home reading.

Spelling sheets will be given out each Tuesday and should be learnt throughout the week for a spelling test on the following Monday. Your child is expected to complete a column of this grid every evening to ensure they commit these spellings to memory by spacing out their practice over the week. These should be kept in your child's home folder as their teacher could ask to check their progress daily. On a Wednesday, your child will be given a tailored task to assist in their learning of the spelling words.

All homework is due to be handed in to your child's teacher on Monday. Thank you for your support with homework, particularly with helping your child recognise and build on their feedback each week.

### **Routines**

Currently a piece of fruit is provided for all children at morning break time by the Government's 'free fruit for schools scheme'. Children are 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. Please remember to check your child's school bag and Parent Mail for any correspondence from the school.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Law

Dempsey Class Teacher