



English Martyrs Catholic Primary School  
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13.1.2023

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year 2023! I am delighted to welcome the children back after the Christmas break and have been extremely impressed by how well they settled back into school routines.

This half term the topic is *Animals and Environments*. We will explore this through reading picture books with animal characters from different parts of the world; beginning with polar animals of the Arctic and Antarctic. We will be comparing the animals and talking about their features and how they are adapted to live in extreme environments. The theme of polar animals links very well with our Winter season and we will be learning basic science facts about freezing and melting and carrying out some investigations using ice.

Our RE topic is 'Getting to know Jesus.' This focuses on the early life of Jesus, from when he was a little boy in Nazareth, learning to be a carpenter. As our class saint is St Joseph the Worker, this topic is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the Holy Family. We will also be learning about how Jesus invites us all to be his friends and about some of his special friends from the Bible.

I am continuing to send reading books home from our reading schemes. Please continue to comment in the accompanying reading record, including details such as whether your child enjoyed the book, which letter sounds or words they recognised or found challenging. We read with every child at least twice a week and strongly encourage you to read daily with your child to ensure they develop into confident readers. We are now teaching phase 3 of the letters and sounds and will continue to revise all sounds covered so far.

In Maths we are consolidating our knowledge of numbers to 5 and have been working on recalling addition facts; pairs of numbers that add up to 5. We are also learning to count back this term, to find numbers that are less. Our new number this half term is zero and we have enjoyed finding zero quantities of things in our classroom.

Thank you for the support you give in developing language and vocabulary by speaking and reading to your children. When introducing new topics, I will be sending home vocabulary sheets containing words relevant to your child's learning so that you can discuss what has been taught in class.

Thank you for your brilliant support,

Miss Cutts