



St Dunstan's Catholic School

Drayton Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7LP



As we grow with God, we learn from each other

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you and your children to their new class! We are looking forward to a great year together.

Please find below some useful information about this year.

Key staff:

Phase Leader: Miss Ghanbari

Year 6 Class Teachers: Miss Ghanbari and Miss Darby

Year 5 Class Teacher: Mr King

Support Staff: Mr Garfield, Mrs Dineen, Mrs Ruffles

PE:

Children need their PE kits in school at all times.

PE days for Year 5/6 and Year 6 are on Tuesdays and Fridays.

PE for Mr King's class will be on Monday and Tuesday

However, opportunities for PE may arise at other moments, so PE kits need to be in school at all times. Kit will be sent home at the end of every half-term, to be washed.

Curriculum Themes and Topics:

As a Catholic school, our curriculum is taught through a Catholic lens: putting Jesus at the heart of all that we learn. We follow the 'Building the Kingdom' approach and these are themes for this year:

Autumn Term: Family and Community

Spring Term: Dignity of Work

Summer: Solidarity and the Common Good

These themes encompass the learning at St Dunstan's and are a focus for school life each term.

On our website, you will find details of what your child is currently learning:

<https://www.stdunstans.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Maps&pid=47>

Marvellous Me:

Marvellous Me is an app that parents should download so that they can be informed about their child's learning and progress at school on a daily basis. Children are



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awarded badges for a variety of reasons such as great effort, or beautiful manners and you will be notified of these via the App. Teachers will also send an activity home daily which shares with you what they learnt that day. Marvellous Me logins will be sent out to you.

Enrichment Days:

This year, we will be introducing 'Enrichment Day,' which are days dedicated to celebrating extra-curricular activities. We aim to provide our pupils with a wealth of enrichment experiences throughout their time at St Dunstan's.

- Autumn Term 25th October – Enrichment Day of Sports, Arts and Crafts
- Spring Term - 14th February – Enrichment Day of Sports, Arts and Crafts
- 11th April – 'No Pens Day'
- Summer Term – 9th May – Cultural Day
- 19th May – St Dunstan's Day

Parent Transition Meeting

In the first half term, each year group will invite parents to a meeting to discuss expectations for the year, including any assessments your child will take this year. The Year 6 transition meeting is on Monday 9th September and the Year 5 transition meeting is on Tuesday 10th September.

Learning at Home

It is important that you support your child at home. It is our expectation that families will invest in the opportunities we provide at each year group and will be part of their child's learning journey in whatever capacity they feel able to.

In UKS2 children and parents are expected to:

In Year Five and Year Six, there is a minimum expectation of the below:

- All children should read with an adult for around 20 minutes each day (please keep hearing your child read even as they get older – make the sharing of the text an enjoyable experience)
- Parents should encourage end of chapter discussion to ensure they have understood the content/can analyse what impact the events and characters are having on the text.
 - Read new words/write spelling words into a sentence/use a variety of strategies to spell unknown/new words.
 - Read and spell all KS1 and all of the Year 5/6 word lists confidently and secure all spelling and punctuation rules.



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- Know all tables to 12x12 confidently and the inverse division facts (keep up the tables practise up!).
- Practise handwriting regularly to secure shape/orientation/speed/legibility
- Complete part or full practise papers (to help get used to SATs timings and expectations). This is an expectation for Year 6 only.

Homework

Please note that homework will be set on a Thursday and should be returned on Monday. It is essential that homework is completed at home and handed in on time. Time will be given to children at break time to complete homework if it is not completed at home. For Year 6 children, please note that to prepare the children for life at secondary school, the expectations for homework will increase throughout the year.

Reading

Your child will be given a book to read by Monday 9th September. Reading books will be changed weekly.

Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) - <https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

Children are expected to login and complete their times tables daily – regular practise will help embed times tables, which are an essential foundation in Mathematics. In addition, children will take part in fun class battles.

Wellness Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, children will have the opportunity to attend an after school club free of charge! Dates and details of the clubs for the Autumn term will be sent out shortly, with instructions about how to sign up to one of these clubs. Consent will need to be given and a commitment to attend every session.

School Fund:

Since the pandemic, School has not asked for a School Fund donation from families. From September, we are kindly requesting that families make a voluntary donation of £30 per family. This donation is entirely voluntary and we would not wish for families to put themselves under any financial pressure in order to make it. School Fund will be used to provide for items, resources, experiences and activities which enhance and enrich the curriculum and therefore the children's learning experiences at school.



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Thank you for supporting your child with their learning.

We hope that you find this information useful. There will be further updates and communication throughout the term, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or you would simply like more information. We are here to help.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Ghanbari, Miss Darby and Mr King

UKS2 Team