



# STJB Rowan Class

## Music to my ears!

Autumn 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new academic year and to a fresh start for us all. I hope that you have had a really great summer, and are ready and raring to go into the new academic year and a brand new key stage.

This term is an action packed one, with slots of exciting things planned.

Our Topic for the Autumn term is 'Music to my Ears' which, as the title suggests, is all about music. We will be looking at creative ways of expressing rhythm in the style of 'Stomp', carrying out a workshop using Tabla Indian drums and receiving visitors with a whole host of musical talents.

In English we will be starting with descriptive writing, using the book 'The Bear and the Piano' as our stimulus. We will then move onto writing non chronological reports about different composers, who we will begin learning about through the book 'Why Beethoven Threw the Stew'. This will be followed by a recount of our Tabla music workshop, and then a newspaper article and finishing with some Christmas poetry. Lots going on.

In Maths, we will begin looking at place value, then moving onto addition and subtraction and then multiplication and division. All of which will be learnt and applied through a range of real life contexts.

Now the children are in KS2, they will be reintroduced to the Maths Planets, which focuses on mastering a fast recall of multiplication facts and number bonds. The children will have a go at a range of planet challenges within the first few weeks, which then enables us to identify their starting planet. When this has been identified we will send home a template of that planet, to be copied or kept for reference, so it can be practised at home each week, as part of their homework. As well as this, weekly assessments will take place in school and when the children have successfully answered all of

their planet questions correctly, within 5 minutes and on 3 separate occasions they will be presented with a certificate in assembly and move onto the next planet. So lots of practice at home please!

We are working on how to apply these skills, as well as the formal written methods (when they have been taught) to 'real life' problems, so that the children can apply their strategies and understand why they are learning these skills. We will also be looking to develop the children's abilities to explain their mathematical reasoning.

Our Science and Design Technology this term will focus on 'Sound' and 'Electricity'. During the first half term the children will engage with a range of practical tasks to identify how sound is made and how it travels, as well as investigating how volume and pitch can be altered. When we move on to electricity, simple circuits will be constructed using a range of components and common conductors and insulators will be tested.

In Computing, the children will be covering a vitally important area of the curriculum and that is 'e-safety'. It is so important that the children know what to do and what not to do when on the internet or using social media. Visit our school website and go to 'Parent zone' / 'E-safety' for more information on e-safety at our school.

In our Open Futures sessions this half term Mrs Stoner will be taking Rowan class for P4C (Philosophy for Children). During these sessions, every Thursday afternoon, the children will be encouraged to discuss some 'big questions', which they will often generate themselves. They will focus on sharing their opinions, listening to each others' opinions and respectfully disagreeing.

During PE, the children will be developing skills in gymnastics and in a variety of invasion games.

**The children will need their PE kits for Tuesdays and Fridays.**

**Over the next week a letter explaining homework in Rowan class will be sent home with the children, so please keep an eye open for that.**

I am very much looking forward to starting this new year with Rowan Class. The above curriculum is so important, as it provides the vehicle for learning skills, knowledge and concepts. However, St John the Baptist School is so much more than this. At the core of everything we do is our aim to bring out the very best in each and every child, by nurturing their confidence and developing their social and communications skills, so they are able to thrive in this learning environment and all other aspects of life. I really look forward to working together with you and the children to make this happen.

If you have any questions as to what we are doing or want to talk about anything that would further help your child, then please either email me using the school office address or make an appointment before or after school so we can talk it through,

Thank you Mrs Fenton :-)