

ST. MARY'S CE SCHOOL, PUTNEY

YEAR 2 BRIEFING LETTER TO PARENTS - SEPTEMBER 2016

Dear Parents /Carers,

Welcome back - We hope you all had a relaxing summer and that the children are looking forward to Year 2. We are all set to have a very enjoyable and busy term ahead.

The programmes of study for this half term are as follows:

Maths: Our programme includes - counting, properties of numbers and number sequences; place value, ordering, estimating, rounding; money and 'real life' problems; making decisions, checking results; measures, including problems; shape and space, reasoning about shapes.

English: We shall be writing for a range of purposes and looking at traditional stories; listening and responding to poems; reading with confidence and understanding; oral comprehension; handwriting and spelling. Our Power of Reading Text is 'Grace and Family'. Phonics work will focus on 'silent letters' in words and alternative spelling patterns. Punctuation including speech, question and exclamation marks and commas in lists will be taught.

RE: Our topic is The Local Church in which we shall be exploring St Mary's Church, Signs and Symbols in the Church, the Church Community and Christian Worship. We shall also be visiting our church after half term to ask questions and to make sketches.

TOPIC - PEOPLE OF THE PAST

During this unit we will be focusing on significant historical figures in History. To launch the topic we shall be holding a Famous People Parade and Party on Monday 12th September. A Parentmail message has been sent to you detailing the event. Children are asked to dress as a famous person from history and come to school prepared to share a few interesting facts about that person. As part of this topic we shall also be visiting The Florence Nightingale Museum on Thursday 15th September. If you would like to escort and support a group of children on this trip please indicate in the PACT book. At the end of our topic you are warmly invited into class to hear from the children what they have learnt this term. Date: Thursday 20th October at 2.30p.m.

In this topic we shall be:

- Exploring the decisions that rulers had to make in the past
- Using a living graph to explore how a famous person might have been feeling
- Finding out about a famous explorer using maps and role play
- Comparing an explorer from the past with a modern-day explorer
- Finding out about a famous scientist
- Finding out about important inventors and their inventions
- Comparing what life was like at different times in the past

MUSIC (with Mrs Le Prevost): In Year 2 this term we will be focusing on developing listening skills by being aware of sounds around us and trying out the different timbres of instruments, as well as listening to music by and learning about a famous classical composer to link in with our class topic 'People of the Past'. We will also experiment with controlling pitch and rhythm through singing and action songs and learn how to respond to start/stop signals.

Recorder lessons will take place on Thursday afternoons once again. Please ensure your child has a labelled recorder for their lesson each week.

ART (with Mrs Astbury): In Year 2 this term, we will be researching and making our own '**Famous Portraits**', exploring portraits of famous people from the past, exploring the work of famous artists, such as Frida Kahlo, Picasso, Van Dyke etc., painting a portrait in the style of a famous artist and choosing our own special person from the past to commemorate. We will experiment with many tools and materials and draw using a range of techniques and styles such as measured drawing and tonal gradation.

INTERNATIONAL:

- Exploring the idea of 'fairness'
- Finding out why some people in the past wanted to make change

COMPUTING: Communicating information using text. Children will learn to open, amend and save Word documents to communicate information and recognise that computer technology enables them correct and improve their work.

PSHE: We will be covering the topic of 'Being in My World.' We will be writing a class learning charter, looking at our hopes and fears for the year, our rights and responsibilities, rewards and consequences.

PE: Year 2 will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday, with Mr Ellis and on a Friday with Mrs Livingstone. This half term pupils will focus on movement and object control. They will develop and link a range of movement patterns. In addition the class will practise throwing and catching individually, sending to a partner and controlling balls in different ways. Skills will be applied through a range of co-operative games.

Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit (named) in school on Tuesdays and Fridays for the children to change into in class.

Y2 Homework Routines:

ALL HOMEWORK MUST BE NAMED

Reading: Reading folders are sent home daily. Could you please ensure that you write in the PACT book when your child has finished their book. Any other comments or feedback regarding your child's reading are always welcome in the PACT book. Books will be changed, if requested, on **TUESDAYS ONLY**.

All homework is sent home on Fridays.

Monday - 'Child of the Week' to be handed in (coloured rectangular piece of card). Make sure your child finds an interesting word/phrase to describe the child of the week and then check the meaning and spelling in a dictionary before decorating it. Dictation sentences should be handed in on Monday. These sentences reinforce the spellings learnt and tested in the previous week.

Thursday - Handwriting sheet, Maths or Topic Work to be handed in.

Friday - Spelling and times tables tests take place (times table books to be returned every **Monday**).

Children are expected to name and **complete all homework in pencil** (unless they have been chosen as 'Handwriter of the week,' in which case, for that week they can do their handwriting homework in pen). Please can you ensure that your child's spelling and times-table cards remain in their folder at all times so that we can inform you of their tests results. Please can you also encourage your child to hand in their homework and PACT book every day and not to leave them in their folder.

We have a number of reward systems in class, one of which is the '**Kindness Box**'. At the end of each day, we select children who have shown kindness, good manners or thoughtful behaviour. The children may then choose an item from the box to keep. If you have any small party bag sized items that we could add to the box, these would be gratefully received.

Back by popular demand, we are aiming to cook with the children once a month. If you are able to help one afternoon, we would be grateful for your support.

We welcome all parents who would like to help in school, either through cooking, listening to readers, supporting children's art work or during class trips. Please sign up in the office if you are able to help.

Please don't hesitate to contact us either in your child's PACT book or on the playground if you need any further information.

Kindest regards

Wendy Livingstone and Tina Thomas

Year 2 Class Teachers

Kate Coyle

Year 2 Teaching Assistant