

ST. MARY'S CE SCHOOL, PUTNEY
YEAR 2 BRIEFING LETTER TO PARENTS-NOVEMBER 2016



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a relaxing break and feel ready to start the second half of the Autumn term. We have an enjoyable and busy term ahead of us, particularly looking forward to our Christmas celebrations.

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

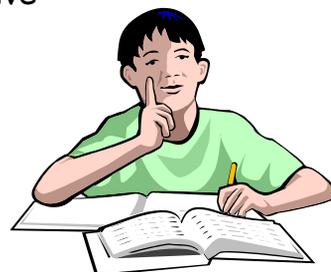
Maths: Counting, properties of numbers. Place value, ordering, estimating. Understanding + and -, understanding multiplication and division. Money and 'real life' problems and fractions. Measures and time, including problems and handling data. Shape and symmetry. Problem solving and worded maths questions.

English: Fiction: Our Power of Reading book for this half term is *The Princess and the White Bear King*. We shall be discussing themes and issues that arise in this story enabling children to make connections with their own lives, to explore and develop ideas through talk and to listen to each other's responses, to develop creative responses to the text through drama, role play and drawing, to write in role in order to explore characters and events, to reflect on their reading. Non-fiction: Instructions. Reading with confidence and understanding; oral comprehension; handwriting and spelling (common words/letter strings).

RE: Christmas - Symbolism of Light - Learning that light is a symbol of goodness, learning about Advent and the Advent ring, Light in the Christmas story and the Christingle. Wednesday 9th November we will be visiting St Mary's church to support our topic. If you are able to escort the children during this trip please put a note in the PACT book.

Science: Super Humans - In this topic we shall be asking questions and collecting evidence through observation and measurement to know:

- About basic conditions needed for living things to survive
- That living things grow and reproduce
- How living things are sorted into groups
- The names of the main external parts of the body
- The importance of healthy exercise and eating
- About the role of drugs as medicines
- About the senses



Our Topic Launch will take place on Wednesday 2nd November and is a Human Body MOT. We shall have a fun introduction to how our bodies work and why it is important to keep fit and healthy.

The Topic Exit Point, to which you are warmly invited, will be held on Thursday 15th December at 2.30pm. You will have the opportunity to look at the work covered in class this term and take part in some of our Super Human experiments!

Computing: Communicating information using text. Children learn to use words to communicate messages and recognise that computer technology enables them to correct and improve their work.

DT & Art taught by Mrs Astbury - In Year 2 this term, we will be creating artworks based upon the topic **Super Humans**, looking at ways in which artists' knowledge of the human skeleton and underlying structures has helped them with the drawing and painting of people. We shall be looking at the three ovals method of figure drawing and how this can be used as a base when drawing and painting any full-length figures.

PE: Year 2 will be participating in multi skills lessons on a Tuesday, with Mr Ellis and on a Friday with Mrs Livingstone. This half term pupils will focus on developing movement and coordination by learning to link different movements, run at different speeds and throw over-arm. In addition they will catch a high ball and dribble with a variety of equipment. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is always in school on Tuesdays and Fridays and that each item is clearly labelled. As the weather is getting colder, school jogging bottoms or plain grey or black jogging bottoms should be worn. Tights are **not** allowed to be worn in PE, so please make sure your child has a pair of socks every week.

Music: Linking to the class topic of the Human Body, we will be looking at ourselves and our bodies: exploring ways of using our voices and bodies to describe feelings and moods. The children will be exploring how to create different vocal sounds through call and response songs and will start to notate them, building to a performance. We will use our bodies to develop a sense of pulse and learn about repeated patterns (ostinati), use body percussion techniques and instruments to respond to music and play rhythm patterns. We will also be rehearsing songs for our Christmas Nativity Service.



Y2 Homework Routines: ALL HOMEWORK MUST BE NAMED

Reading: **New** Book Bags are to be sent home daily. Could you please ensure that you write in the new Reading Record when your child has finished their book (and not in the PACT books from now on). Any other comments or feedback regarding your child's reading are always welcome. Books will be changed on FRIDAYS ONLY this half term. Please refer to separate letter sent home before half term.

Monday - 'Child of the Week' cards to be handed in. Make sure your child finds an interesting word/phrase to describe the child of the week and then checks the meaning and spelling in a dictionary before decorating the card.

Thursday - Dictation books, Handwriting sheets and Maths Abacus Homework to be completed.

Friday - spelling and times tables test (times table books to be returned every Monday).

Children are expected to name and complete all homework in pencil. Please can you ensure that your child's spelling and times-table cards remain in their folder at all times. Please can you also encourage your child to hand in their homework and PACT book every morning and not to leave them in their folders.

Final Comments

Many thanks for supporting our class cake sale before Half Term. We raised over £150! All money raised will directly support your child in Year 2.

The children really enjoyed our first monthly cooking session in October. We would be grateful for parental help with this activity so please let us know if this is something you are able to help with.

Thank you for all your encouragement and support, it is much appreciated. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wishing you a happy Christmas term
Wendy Livingstone and Tina Thomas