

ST. MARY'S CE SCHOOL, PUTNEY
YEAR 2 BRIEFING LETTER TO PARENTS-NOVEMBER 2017



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:

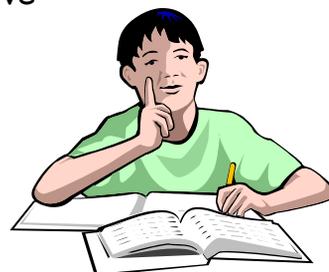
Maths: Counting, properties of numbers. Place value, ordering, estimating. Understanding + and -, understanding multiplication and division. Money and 'real life' problems and fractions. Measures and time, including problems and handling data. Shape and symmetry. Problem solving and worded maths questions.

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: We shall first conclude our learning on Hinduism, focusing on the question *What Does it Mean to Be a Hindu?* Our Christmas topic asks, *Where is the Light at Christmas?* We shall learn that light is a symbol of goodness and learn about Advent and the Advent ring, about the symbolism of light in the Christmas story and in the Christingle.

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 1st 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 14th December at 9.10-10am. 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 Forsyth- In Year 2 this half term we will be looking at the colour wheel and learning how to create secondary colours from the three primary colours. We will produce a painted self-portrait using the proportions of a face.

PE: Year 2 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday and Tuesday with Mr Ellis. This half term pupils will continue to focus on movement and ball skills. They will apply movements learnt in a variety of games and develop changes in speed and direction when dribbling. In addition the class will practice linking dribbling with passing, recap the chest pass and use this to beat opponents. Skills will be applied through a range of co-operative games.

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: Book Bags are to be sent home daily. Could you please ensure that you write in the Reading Record when your child has finished their book. Any other comments or feedback regarding your child's reading are always welcome. Books will be changed on THURSDAYS ONLY.

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.

Tuesday - 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, letters etc. and not to leave them in their folders.

Final Comments

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
Year Two Class Teachers