

ST. MARY'S CE SCHOOL, PUTNEY
YEAR 2 BRIEFING LETTER TO PARENTS-NOVEMBER 2019

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: Addition and Subtraction: Add and subtract numbers using concrete objects, pictorial representations and mentally, including: two 2-digit numbers. Solve problems with addition and subtraction: applying their increasing knowledge of mental and written methods, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, including those involving numbers, quantities and measures
Money: Recognise and use signs for pounds (£) and pence (p); combine amounts to make a particular value. Recognise and know the value of different denominations of coins and notes. Find different combinations of coins that equal the same amounts of money. Solve simple problems in a practical context involving addition and subtraction of money of the same unit, including giving change.
Multiplication and Division: Solve problems involving multiplication and division, using materials, arrays, repeated addition, mental methods, and multiplication and division facts, including problems in contexts. Calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division within the multiplication tables and write them using the multiplication (\times), division (\div) and equals ($=$) signs
Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers

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. To support and enhance our topic, we shall be taking the class to Southwark Cathedral for Journey to the Manger, an interactive and reflective day exploring the Advent and Christmas story. The trip is on Wednesday 4th December. If you are able to help by accompanying us, please get in touch.

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 30th October 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 Wednesday 18th 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 Adams- Year 2 will develop colour mixing and matching skills . They will look at the work of comic book artists and create their own action figure images using a range of media

PE: This half term Year 2 shall continue to work on their ball skills with Mr Naughton, covering: hand to eye coordination, sending and receiving a variety of sized balls, using both netball/basketball and football based techniques. They shall take these skills learned and develop them into small group game situations. Requiring, team work, special awareness and sportsmanship.

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 Service at church.

PHSE: Our topic this half term will be 'Celebrating Differences. To understand that some people have fixed ideas about what boys and girls can do, to understand that bullying is sometimes about differences, to identify ways to respond to unkind behaviour, to know how it feels to be a friend and have a friend, to understand that differences make us special and unique.

Y2 Home Learning Routines: ALL HOME LEARNING MUST BE NAMED

Reading: Book Bags are to be sent to school daily. Could you please ensure that you write in the Reading Record when your child has finished their books ('NEW BOOKS PLEASE,' is sufficient). Any other comments or feedback regarding your child's reading are always welcome. Books will be changed on THURSDAYS ONLY. I will alternate listening to your child read (decoding), with reading to your child (to check for comprehension) on a weekly basis. Please continue to check your child is able to read all 60 Tricky Words (sent home earlier in the 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. These are displayed in class and then taken home as a keep sake, so please ensure the children aim for best presentation.

Wednesday - Dictation books and Handwriting sheets to be handed in. I mark dictation on a Thursday so books will be returned on the Friday.

Thursday - Mental Maths test. Please ensure your child knows their number bonds without the need to use equipment or fingers.

Friday - Spelling Test. Please ensure spelling cards are handed in so that we can inform you of test results.

Children are expected to name and complete all home learning in pencil (except for the 'Handwriter of the Week'). Please can you ensure that your child brings in their reading folder each day. Please can you also help us by encouraging your child to hand in their home learning, 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 me.

Wishing you a happy Christmas term

Wendy Livingstone (Year Two Class Teacher)

