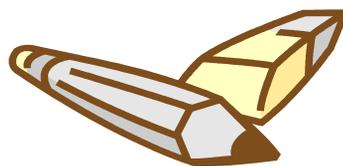


ST. MARY'S CE SCHOOL, PUTNEY
YEAR 2 BRIEFING LETTER TO PARENTS -JANUARY 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back - We hope you all had a fun and relaxing Christmas and Father Christmas was good to you! Many, many thanks for your kind Christmas cards and gifts, we are truly touched by your generosity and thoughtfulness.

We have another enjoyable and busy term ahead of us. The programmes of study for this half term are as follows:

Maths

Counting, properties of numbers and number sequences. Place value, ordering, estimating, rounding. Understanding + and -. Mental calculation strategies (+ and -). Money and 'real life' problems. Making decisions, checking results. Telling analogue and digital times to the nearest half hour, recognising right angles, clockwise and anticlockwise turns and measuring weight in kg and g.

English

Fiction: Traditional stories: stories from other cultures; stories with predictable and patterned language. Power of Reading work this half term will be based around the author Dick King-Smith and we shall be reading "The Hodgeheg" and "George Speaks". Non-fiction: Dictionaries, glossaries, indexes and other alphabetically ordered texts.

Religious Education

Our topic for this half-term is the **Why are Saints Important to Christianity?** In this topic we shall be learning about the lives of some saints, exploring their special qualities and thinking about how these can be important in our own lives.

Science

Our Science topic will be **The Earth - Our Home** in which we shall learn about animal and plant habitats and discover how plants and animals are adapted to their environments. We have booked an exciting trip to Kew Gardens for Monday 22nd January where we shall have a guided tour of the plant environments. Any volunteers who have completed the induction and have a DBS would be most welcome to join us and support the children's learning through this visit. Please contact Mrs Livingstone if you would like to attend.

ICT: Finding Information. Following straightforward lines of enquiry and choosing the most appropriate search techniques for their purposes.

PSHE: Dreams and Goals! This topic focuses primarily on the key aspect of motivation and self-awareness: stay motivated when doing something challenging, keep trying even when it is difficult, work well with a partner or in a group, learn with others, have a positive attitude, help others to achieve their goals, work hard to achieve their own dreams and goals and celebrate our achievements.

French: We shall continue to reinforce the vocabulary and expressions learnt in the Autumn term including *Comment ça va? Comment t'appelles-tu? Quel âge as-tu?* with responses, counting to 20 and colours. We shall then introduce clothing vocabulary and French games.

Art: We shall be focusing on printing techniques and creating pieces of artwork inspired by the topic studied in class. We will use a variety of techniques and look at the work of artists who have used print, including Durer, Warhol and the contemporary artist, Gillian Ayres.

PE: Year 2 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday and Tuesday with Mr Ellis. This half term's activity will be gymnastics. Pupils will focus on maintaining balance while moving along apparatus and perform basic jumps. In addition the class will practice a variety of rolls and balancing on different body parts. Skills will be linked into basic sequences and applied through a range of co-operative games.

Music: Music will be taught by Mrs Le Prevost. Linking in with our class topic of **The Earth, Our Home**, we will be exploring timbre and texture to understand how sounds can be descriptive using our natural environment as inspiration. We will be creating, performing and evaluating descriptive instrumental music inspired by British myths and legends in different environments, e.g. in lakes, mountains and forests.

Final Comments: Y2 Home Learning routines will take place as follows: Dictation, Handwriting, Child of the Week and Active Learn Maths to be sent home every **FRIDAY**. All home learning (except Child of the Week) to be returned on **WEDNESDAY**. Please remind children that home learning should be completed in pencil and *named*. The half termly topic home learning was given to the children before Christmas and is due in by Friday 19th January. Reading books will continue to be changes every Thursday if it has been requested in the Reading Journals.

Our topic 'Exit Point' (open classroom), will take place Thursday 8th February at 2.30 p.m. All parents and carers are welcome.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us in person or via email. Once again a huge thanks for all your support and encouragement with your child.

Wendy Livingstone and Tina Thomas

