

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



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back - We hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing break and feel ready for another exciting and busy term.

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; understanding + and -; mental calculation strategies of multiplication and division; money and 'real life' problems; making decisions, checking results; fractions; measures and time, including problems; handling data.

### **English**

Our Power of Reading book will be *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon. We will continue to look at non-fiction: dictionaries, glossaries, indexes and other alphabetically ordered texts.

### **RE**

Our first topic, *What are God's rules for living?*, helps us to find out about the Ten Commandments and what they teach us about God and the way to live.

Our new Easter topic is called *How do Easter symbols help us to understand Easter's true meaning?* and explores the significance to Christians of the many Easter symbols, focusing on the symbols of the cross and of water.

### **TOPIC**

Our topic this half term will be 'The Great Fire of London.' A local visit to a bakery will take place Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to start the topic. A trip to The Museum of London and St Paul's Cathedral has been planned for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. If you are able to accompany us on either trip (those parents with DBS checks who have attended an Induction meeting), please do contact us.

**PE** - Year 2 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday and Tuesday with Mr. Ellis. Children may come into school in PE kits on Mondays. This half term's activity will be dance. Pupils will be exploring the topic The Great Fire of London in dance lessons. Activities will focus on physical exploration including games and creative movement tasks linked to the materials used to build Tudor houses, artwork depicting the spread of the fire, diary entries by Samuel Pepys and journeys of evacuation. Through composition, performance and appreciation pupils will respond imaginatively to a range of stimuli, combining action, spatial aspects, dynamics and relationships to link dances together and interpret others'. The sessions will allow pupils to creatively and physically explore topics they are learning about in their classrooms.

**PHSE** - Healthy Me!: The children will be making some healthy snacks and explaining why they are good for their bodies. They will be expressing how it feels to share healthy food with friends.

**Music** is taught by Mrs Le Provost. This half term the focus is 'Storytime' which we shall link in with their class topic of the Fire of London. The children will be introduced to famous pieces of music to stimulate composition, and interpret a storyboard with musical sound effects and develop their own ideas using voices and percussion. This will culminate in creating a class story using sound and exploring the different musical elements to make their storytelling effective.

**Art** will be taught by Mrs Forsyth. The topic for the second half of the term will be still life painted drawings and collage. The children will produce drawings and mixed media collages from direct observation of flowers, plants and real-life objects. We will focus on including as much detail as possible and will use light and dark tone shadows to create the effect of three-dimensions. We will look at scientific botanical drawing, Dutch flower painters (C16-17<sup>th</sup>), Edouard Manet (C19<sup>th</sup>), Elizabeth Blackadder (C20<sup>th</sup>).

The art room displays this half term include a series of print of works by Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh from the collection of the Musee D'Orsay; three Da Vinci images (Louvre) and 15<sup>th</sup> century mythical animal prints from the Cluny Museum, Paris. All three Museums have excellent websites.



**Computing** - We shall continue to develop our computing skills including becoming more familiar with Word and PowerPoint and working on our touch-typing skills.

**French** - Our main focus will be on learning vocabulary connected to food, and role-playing visits to French shops and restaurants.

### Home Learning

Please remind children that home learning should be completed in pencil to the best of their ability, returned on the right day and named where applicable. It is important that your child hands in their work ready to be marked. We do not unpack their folders so each child takes responsibility for taking out their own work, letters etc. All weekly home learning is given out on Fridays as follows: 'Child of the Week' to be completed and handed in by Monday. Handwriting, Dictation and Maths should be completed by the following Wednesday. Remember the dictation sentences are always a week behind the spelling patterns. Spellings and times tables tests will continue each Friday.

As part of our work on The Great Fire of London, we would like your child to visit and/or research The Monument in London and present this to the class on one side of A4 by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Book change takes place on Thursdays but please continue to read to and listen to your child read as often as possible, from a wide range of material.

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

Mrs Wendy Livingstone & Tina Thomas

Year 2 Class Teachers

