



St. Mary's C.E. School, Putney

**Year 5 Half Termly Letter to Parents**

**Spring 1, January 2018**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Year 5 were fantastic last term and I cannot wait to see what they can achieve this term. We have an exciting half term planned. I expect that in Year 5 students take initiative to remember the appropriate kit and home learning on the correct days.

Below is another reminder of the class routines, as well as an outline of the curriculum areas covered this half term.

**Reading**

**Guided Reading** - This will happen once a week and your child will be part of a reading group. The group will read and discuss a book and complete focused learning tasks based around the text.

**Independent Reading** - Throughout each day there are independent silent reading sessions where children will read a book of their choice. In Year 5 children are expected to make their own choices about the material they read based on interest and ability. Children are also expected to read at home every night for at least 15 minutes. It is their responsibility to return finished reading books to the appropriate place on the bookshelf and select another book. Please encourage your children to speak with me if they are struggling to find a suitable book.

**Home Learning**

Maths and English homework should be done in Maths or English homework books, or on sheets and neatly stuck in where appropriate. There may occasionally be an additional piece of topic-based work to reinforce the work done in class as appropriate.

**Maths:** Set on Friday to be handed in on Wednesdays.\*

**English:** Set on Friday to be handed in on Wednesdays.\*

**Spellings:** Word lists given at the start of the term. Tested on Friday

**Reading:** Daily for at least 15 minutes each evening.

**Times Tables:** Tested on Monday

**Home learning will not be set during holidays.**

*\*This is a change from last term.*

Here is an outline of the topics we will be covering within each subject area:

**English:** In English we will be following the 'Power of Reading' scheme which uses a text-centred approach to teaching reading and writing. Our text this half term is the narrative poem 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes. We will be reading and analysing the poem, looking particularly at the use of figurative language as well as the metre and rhyme. We will also be writing some of our own poetry in a range of styles. These tasks will incorporate writing skills such as accurate use of punctuation, sentence types, verb forms and descriptive language, supported by the National Curriculum.



**Maths:** In Maths lessons we will be using the Abacus scheme of work covering a range of maths skills including - Place value in 6 digit numbers, multiplying decimals, written and mental calculation strategies including multiplication and division, money and real life problems, making decisions and checking results, measures and reasoning about shapes.

Independently, children should be working to ensure that they know all multiplication facts to 12.

**French:** Madame Cox will provide specialist French teaching. The children will continue to develop their basic French vocabulary and extend their knowledge of direction and places.

**Computing:** Throughout the term we will continue to reinforce general skills, such as file management, touch typing and e-safety. In addition, we will be covering an IPC technology specific topic, 3D Designers. In this unit we will learn how architects use technology to design building.

**RE:** We will be looking at Sikhism, its history, beliefs and drawing comparisons to our own faiths. At the end of this unit we will visit the South London Gurdwara.

**ART:** Mrs Forsyth will continue will be teaching art, the children will explore a range of techniques using a variety of materials.

**Music:** This half term will be listening to a wide variety of music by well-known classical composers to explore the human life cycle. The music and its range of moods, styles and genres will inspire us to sing, perform and compose using new techniques and structures. We will be singing in three parts, developing our knowledge of staff notation and accompanying a song with tuned and untuned instruments.

**PSHE:** We will look at our dreams and goals and understand how to handle and learn from both success and failure. We will also learn to appreciate how our dreams and goals differ from one another and respect these differences. This ties in nicely with our anti-bullying theme of the year All Different! All Equal!

**PE:** Year 5 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday, with Mr Ellis and on a Thursday with Miss Rinaldi. This half term's activity will be gymnastics. Pupils will focus on performing a variety of rolls and jumps in unison and cannon. In addition the class will practice balances on different levels, taking weight on their hands and use rolls learnt to link balances. Skills will be used to create individual and paired sequences in space.

Please ensure your children have a full PE kit, clearly labelled. We will endeavor to always go outside for lessons, children need to have the appropriate kit for the weather. Children should come to school wearing their uniform and will get changed into their P.E. kit for the lesson.

**Topic:** In our topic study, we will begin our new topic, Investigators. This topic is a primarily a science based topic. We will be finding out about several ways to investigate in science, how to make sure our investigations are well designed and reliable, ways to collect, record, interpret and present our findings and about several materials and their properties.

I would also like to thank all of you for the support you provide by reading with your children, helping them with their spellings, home learning and all the other little things that ensure their time in year 5 is as successful as possible. Keep up the good work!

Please do not hesitate to contact me through the PACT system or before school if you have any queries or concerns. If you prefer, you may also speak with Miss Khatib.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Courtney Rinaldi