



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

Year 5 Half Termly Letter to Parents

Spring 2, February 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you and your children enjoyed a well-deserved rest and are prepared for an incredibly busy half term. There is so much to look forward to this term and I know the children will rise to the challenges presented to them. I have very high expectations of the children and know they will work hard to stay focused and make good progress.

There are a number of exciting events coming up. On 16<sup>th</sup> March we will transform Year 5 into a Victorian classroom to help put our current text, 'Street Child' into historical context. We also have two exciting trips planned; we will visit the Royal Observatory on 7<sup>th</sup> March and attend an enterprise workshop at Ark Putney Academy on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. I will need a parent volunteers to accompany us on these trips, please let me know if you are available.

Of course there are also a number of special events taking place a little closer to home, such as World Book Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and our Mother's Day Service on 9<sup>th</sup> March, as well as preparations for Easter with our Maudy Thursday Service.

I'm sure you are well aware of the usual class routines and homework schedules, but here is a reminder. As we are half way through Year 5, I feel it is your children's responsibility to remember home learning and to bring the correct kit to school for their lessons. However at times, a gentle reminder of this may be necessary!

### **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 home learning 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

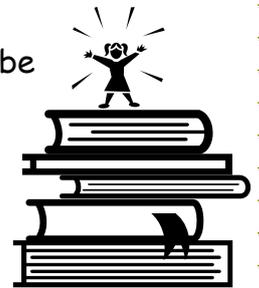
**Reading:** Daily for at least 15 minutes each evening.

**Times Tables:** Tested on Monday

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

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

**English:** In English we follow the 'Power of Reading' scheme and we will be studying 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. We will be exploring a number of the book's characters by analysing and annotating the text, as well as our own drawings. We will also be demonstrating our understanding of their thoughts and feelings through writing letters and diary entries in role as a character. This will be supported by a range of drama activities. 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: multiplication and division, using written methods; improper fractions and mixed numbers; calculating a unit fraction of a whole number; and defining the properties of polygons.

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 be continuing to build on their vocabulary, learning about food and developing questioning skills.

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

**RE:** We will finish up our learning about Sikhism and we will visit to the South London Gurdwara at the start of next term. As Easter draws nearer, will be discussing Lent and its significance to Christians; we will also explore the Easter story and the different viewpoints and attitudes towards Jesus's death. We will be visiting St Mary's Church on 21<sup>st</sup> March for a Godly Play session.

**ART:** 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 (16-17<sup>th</sup>), Edouard Manet (19<sup>th</sup>), Elizabeth Blackadder (20<sup>th</sup>).

The art room displays this half term include a series of print of works by Claude Monet, 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.

**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 use the Jigsaw's scheme, 'Healthy Me,' to learn about the importance of staying healthy. We will also explore how smoking, alcohol and drugs affect our bodies.

**PE:** Year 5 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday, with Mr Ellis and on a Thursday with me. This half term's activity will be dance. Pupils will be exploring the topic Mission to Mars in their dance lessons. Activities will focus on physical exploration including games and creative movement expressing the circular shape of planets and orbiting one another. Through these explorations pupils will focus on developing an understanding of all the ways the body can move in a circle, spatial awareness, teamwork and the ability to respond creativity and physically to topics they are learning about in their classrooms.

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:** our next topic, 'Mission to Mars', which will cover the following foundation subject areas:

**In Science, we'll be finding out:**

- About the planets in our solar system
- About mass and weight, and the effects of gravity
- How to grow seeds and plants, and select suitable crops for Mars
- How to identify a living organism
- About different energy sources
- How to choose the best energy source/s for our Mars shelter

**In Geography, we'll be finding out:**

- About the geographical features of Mars
- How we can prove that there was once water on Mars

**In Technology, we'll be finding out:**

- About the technology that has been used to explore Mars
- How to design and make a suitable vehicle for exploring Mars

**In History, we'll be finding out:**

- About what people in the past used to think about Mars
- About the evidence to prove and disprove intelligent life on Mars

**In International, we'll be finding out:**

- How to write our own international rules and regulations for Mars
- About the reasons why we might one day need to live on another planet

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. Parents' Evening (Progress in Learning Meetings) is on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March, I look forward to meeting with you then.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Courtney Rinaldi