

ST. MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



BICENTENARY 1819-2019

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

Year 5 Half Termly Letter to Parents

Spring 2, February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you and your children enjoyed a well-deserved rest and are prepared for an exciting half term. This term's activities will kick off with our Bicentenary celebrations. From a balloon release to DT activities to our Bicentenary worship service, it is sure to be an exciting and memorable week for St. Mary's.

We have planned other fun activity days for this term. On 29th 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 27th February as part of our 'Mission to Mars' topic. We will visit the Barbican on 4th March to attend a Fantasy and Folktale music workshop.

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. 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. If they have not finished their task during the week, it is expected they complete this work for homework.

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 should also be encouraged 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. The children know that they can 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 Wednesday.

English: Set on Friday to be handed in on Wednesday.

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 Friday.

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.



Maths: In Maths lessons we continue to follow the White Rose Maths scheme. During this half term we will continue to build on our knowledge of fractions. The children will learn to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers, multiply fractions by whole numbers and find fractions of amounts. Towards the later part of the term we will work on decimals and percentages and how they relate to fractions. Throughout the unit, we will be working to improve reasoning skills and fluency in order to consolidate skills.

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

French: Madame Goalen will provide specialist French teaching. The children will be continuing to build on their vocabulary 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 will working on coding using the Python coding language.

RE: In the first part of the term we will explore if fame and the Christian faith can go together. 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.

ART: In the art-room this half-term we will create observational still life studies drawings and paintings of a variety of seasonal flowers and vegetation. Year 5 will learn to mix warm and cool colour tones in their work. We will look at the work of artists across the centuries: Judith Leyster (17th); Jan van Huysum (18th); Henri Fantin-Latour (19th); Andy Warhol (20th); Gillian Ayres (21st). As the first half of the summer term is short, we will start planning and preparing our canvases for the FOSMS Summer Art Exhibition.

Music: Tying in with the class topic of Mission to Mars, we'll be listening to Mars from Holst's Planets to explore how our solar system inspired great composers. We'll be looking at identifying the instrumentation and instrumental techniques in the piece and analysing how the music conveys the mood and character of the planet. Then, in groups, we will be creating a short piece of music using an ostinato pattern and dynamic effects, which we will record, listen back to and evaluate.

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 spend their Monday lesson having an introduction to gymnastics in the hall with Ms McCrone. We will cover a variety of gym skills including; balancing alone and with a partner, forward rolls, log rolls and backward rolls. Towards the end of the term, skills such as cartwheels and headstands shall be covered with the final two weeks' children working on creating mini sequences to include all of these. On Thursday's Y5 will continue with handball with Mr Naughton. Here they shall improve their techniques of passing, sending and receiving effectively, movement in and out of space, marking techniques and then small sided games which shall then grow into competitive matches. Within these sessions, the children will be encouraged to think tactically about their game play. For the remainder of the half term, Mr Naughton will introduce tennis, developing hand to eye coordination, timing and technique covering basic shots and competitive rally's and match play.

On alternate Tuesday mornings Y5 will continue to take part in Yoga with Ms McCrone. These sessions are designed to draw inner focus, confidence, both physical and mental strength as well as teaching the children tools to cope with anxiety (which is on the rise) in their busy lives. These sessions encourage individual and pair work to build friendships, fun and respect between peers.

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 subject areas:

In Science, we'll be finding out:

- About the planets in our solar system
- How planets move relative to the Sun

- How the Moon moves relative to the Earth
- About mass and weight, and the effects of gravity
- 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 Overton. The Spring Progress in Learning Meetings are on 27th and 28th of March, I look forward to meeting with you then.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Courtney Rinaldi