



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

Year 5 Half Termly Letter to Parents

Spring 2, February 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are halfway through our year and I have loved watching the children mature and make good progress. 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 work to their full potential.

We have planned many fun activity days for this term. On Friday 28th we have a DT sewing day, 6th March is World Book Day, on 11th March we are going to Wandsworth Junior Citizens and the annual Mothering Service is on 20th March.

I'm sure you are well aware of the usual class routines and homework schedules, but here is a reminder. 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 at least 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. Do ask your child what they are reading and engage them in conversations about books.

Independent Reading - 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 continue reading 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. At the completion of this novel, we will be looking at non-fiction writing, namely biographies and informational reports. These tasks will incorporate grammatical writing skills such as accurate use of punctuation, sentence types, verb forms and precise vocabulary choices.



Maths: In Maths lessons we continue to follow the Power Maths scheme. During this half term we will look at multiplication and division, and fractions. In the multiplication and division unit we will be learning compact methods for both, and solving multi-step problems. In our fractions unit, children will learn find equivalent fractions, convert improper fractions to mixed numbers, add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers, multiply fractions by whole numbers and find fractions of amounts. Throughout the units, 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 Bais will provide specialist French teaching. The children will be continuing to build on their vocabulary and developing questioning skills.

Computing: During the half term we will continue working on coding using Scratch. Throughout the term we will also continue to reinforce general skills, such as file management, touch typing and e-safety.

RE: In the first part of the term we will explore if fame and the Christian faith can go together. As Easter draws nearer, we 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: With weather as their focus, Year 5 will create scratch boards and develop a sgraffito technique to create a dramatic rain scene.

Music: This half term we will be 'At the movies'. We will explore music ranging from 1920s animated films to present day movies, learning the techniques for creating soundtracks and film scores to compose our own movie music. We will use storyboards, explore sound effects and discover the effect music has on the movies as well as learn how to notate sound effects and use cue scores.

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: This half term Y5 will play handball. They will learn to pass, send and receive effectively, movement in and out of space, defending 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. In addition, to improve overall fitness, we will be running/fast walking at the start of each day for 10 minutes.

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.

GEOGRAPHY: Our new topic is 'Weather and Climate'. We will kick it off with a rescue mission to Antarctica. At the completion of this topic, the students will hold a Weather and Climate Fair to the parents.

- Finding out about weather and climate in different parts of the world
- Finding out how human activities in different regions are affected by weather and climate
- Finding out how clouds are formed
- Finding out about the water cycle
- Finding out about some extreme weather patterns
- Finding out about climate and environmental problems in our own country
- Finding out what simple things we can do to help improve our environment

SCIENCE: In Science, we'll be:

- Conducting experiments to simulate weather types
- Making predictions, observations, and drawing conclusions
- Finding out about ways we can measure and record weather

D&T: In Technology, we'll be:

- Designing and building our own weather station instruments
- Finding out about the different types of modern technology used to measure weather

I would also like to thank all of you for the support you provide by reading with your children, helping them with their spellings and maths, 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 after school if you have any queries or concerns. If you prefer, you may also speak with Miss Jenkins. The Spring Progress in Learning Meetings are on 25th and 26th of March, I look forward to meeting with you then.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Courtney Rinaldi