



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Year 6: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Spring 1, January 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year - I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an exciting and joyful 2019! Thank you once again for all your good wishes at the end of last term and I trust you all had a wonderful and restful Christmas holiday.

The children will continue mastering their skills in the curriculum so it is important that they settle back quickly into the routines of school life. I am sure that some of the children will be taking entry tests and sitting interviews for secondary schools and I wish them good luck, but would also like to encourage all children to keep up with their class learning, producing good quality work and maintaining routines at this busy time. All of our Y6 children will need to continue their goal of stepping up and working hard to ensure they go beyond the expected standard required.



200th Anniversary

As many of you will know 2019 marks our school's bicentennial year! What an incredible achievement - to consider 200 years of history in which St. Mary's has existed is quite mind blowing. I am sure this year will be very exciting as we celebrate the school's birthday and I am already looking forward to the Bicentennial Week planned after half-term which culminates in the special church service on Friday 1st March 2019 and Bicentennial Ball on Saturday 2nd March 2019. There will be many more special events planned for the rest of the year to join in with and there is also the big 'Playground Project 200' fundraising event - if you have yet to donate head over to our school website and click the 'Donate Now' button.



Secondary School's National Offer Day

Just a reminder that if you applied online for a state secondary school you will be emailed the outcome of your application on the evening of 1st March 2019 from the London eAdmissions Team. You will also be sent a follow-up notification e-mail from Wandsworth Council if it has not been possible to offer your first preference school. This e-mail will provide detailed information about the outcome of your application and what to do next. If you applied on a paper form you will be sent an outcome letter by first class mail on 1st March 2019.

Keep in the loop with social media

The school is now actively using two social media platforms to communicate school news and events, so please check them out and follow us:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/PutneySMPS>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PutneySMPS/>

The Curriculum

Below is an outline of the Year 6 curriculum planned for this half term:

- English Our **Power of Reading** text will be *Sensational Poems* by Roger McGough. An imaginative poetry anthology featuring sections on sight, sound, touch, smell and taste. The children will explore the use of figurative language and create their own anthology of poems. On completion of this work the class will move on to our next text called *Goodnight Mister Tom* by Michelle Magorian. This well loved novel about a boy evacuated during the outbreak of war and in need of someone to care for him will captivate the children. It will deal with some sensitive issues for the class to consider and will link nicely with our future topic work on World War II. Grammar and punctuation will focus on revision for the up and coming assessments (SATs). Spelling tests will continue to be held on Friday - the words selected are all from previous SATs tests so please ensure meanings of words are learnt as well as the spellings!
- Maths The children will be covering the following areas: Number and place value; Written addition and subtraction; Decimals, percentages and their equivalence to fractions; Fractions, ratio and proportion; Problem solving, reasoning and algebra; Mental multiplication and division; Geometry: properties of shapes; Mental addition and subtraction; Written multiplication and division.
At home it would be really useful if the children are encouraged to complete the various curriculum activities on *Mathletics* - these act as good consolidation and revision tasks.
- Topic
(Science & Geography) First the class will need to continue and then conclude their topic '**What a Wonderful World**' which focuses on geography and science (see previous newsletter for details).
- Topic
(History) Next the class will begin their new topic on **World War II**. The children will delve into history and learn about the outbreak of war, the effects of the Blitz, food rationing and the evacuation of children from major cities. We will then look at some events following the war and the formation of NATO. In previous years we have invited a guest speaker in to the classroom to share their childhood memories of wartime Britain, so if you have a friend or relative who might like to join us then please contact Mr Lett. A school trip to the Churchill War Rooms will also be arranged - details regarding this trip will be sent home nearer the time.
- Computing The class will first conclude their lessons on how to code with BBC micro:bit. Then the class will begin their work on **Digital technology** - the children will be looking at how to use online surveys as a research tool, how to use hyperlinks to create interactive stories and about different simulations and their uses.
- R.E. We will be studying the topic -**What is Buddhism?** The children will be finding out who Siddhartha was and the circumstances that led to him becoming Buddha and achieving enlightenment. They will also be introduced to Buddhist virtues and beliefs using stories that Buddha told.
- P.S.H.E. **Dreams and Goals** - this unit focuses on exploring ways in which we work with each other to make the world a better place and identifying why we

are motivated to do this.

- French Madame Goalen will continue to deliver specialist teaching of French every Wednesday afternoon. "Ecoutez et repetez!"
- Art & Design Mrs Forsyth will provide specialist teaching of art lessons. In the first half of the spring term Year 6 will make a printing stamp and use it to make a large two-colour printed pattern. In the latter part of this half-term the class will also revise the proportions of a face to prepare for the Bicentennial celebrations immediately after our February break.
- Music Mrs Le Prevost will teach specialist music lessons. This half term, with our Bicentennial celebration coming up, the children will work to create a special school anniversary song. We will study how songs are structured and the key elements that we need to make a successful song using our school's ethos, vision and values as inspiration. The children will then choose a suitable backing track and work together to write the lyrics to fit into the rhythm of the accompaniment. We need to ensure our song is finished by the end of this half term so that it can be taught to the whole school in our Bicentennial week and performed at the church service.
- P.E. Year 6 shall spend their Monday afternoon lesson working with Ms McCrone this term, continuing their learning and understanding of hockey skills and game play. We shall cover dribbling, passing, control and possession techniques which shall filtrate into mini game situations, where tactics for the both the individual and team shall be applied. This should further guide and push them to understand the role of positions and the effectiveness of these in game play.
On Thursday's Y6 shall start 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 shall be encouraged to think tactically about their game play.
On alternate Tuesday mornings Y6 shall 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 in their busy lives. The sessions shall encourage individual and pair work to build friendships, fun and respect between peers.

PE LESSONS FOR YEAR 6 WILL USUALLY TAKE PLACE TWICE A WEEK - EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON AND EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT AND TRAINERS FOR OUTDOORS ARE IN SCHOOL ON THESE DAYS AND LABELLED CLEARLY.

Home Learning

In Year 6 all children will usually be given three sets of main home learning to complete each week. We advise our children to spend no more than 40 minutes on each piece of main home learning and to let us know whether they found it too complicated or too easy at the end of the assignment. We expect all of our Year 6 children to complete their home learning independently but it would be beneficial for them to have it checked over for accurate punctuation, accurate calculations and neatness before it is handed in. Please comment if you have had to help significantly.

Home learning is structured as followed:

Friday: English, Maths and Topic - all due in on the following Wednesday.

The children will need support in organising and managing how they will complete their 3 pieces of home learning over the course of the week.

In addition to the main home learning Year 6 pupils will also be expected to conduct these:

- 1) Spellings - need to be learnt weekly, set every Monday for a test on Friday.
- 2) Times Tables - need to be rehearsed regularly for a test on Friday.
- 3) Mental Arithmetic - need to practise regularly for a test on Monday.
- 4) Guided Reading - tasks will be set on a designated day for completion **at home** and handed in for the following week's session with the teacher.

Diary Dates

Monday 7th January 2019 - INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 8th January 2019 - Start of Spring Term 1

Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 9.15am - Holy Communion Service (parents welcome)

Friday 18th January 2019 at 9.15am - Celebration & Good Work Assembly (parents welcome)

Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 12noon - Topic Exit Point Presentation (parents welcome)

Friday 1st February 2019 - DT Day 2

Tuesday 5th February 2019 - Safer Internet Day (SID)

Friday 8th February 2019 at 9.15am - Celebration & Good Work Assembly (parents welcome)

Friday 15th February 2019 - End of Spring Term 1

Monday 20th February 2019 - Start of Spring Term 2

Monday 20th-Friday 1st March 2019 - Bicentennial Week

Communication

If you have any queries about the daily routine or what your child is learning, or perhaps to inform us of other matters relating to your child, then do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the Year 6 team. As always the best way to do this is through the use of your child's PACT. The PACT e-mail is a great tool for communication between home and school, so please do not hesitate in using it. The address is:

class6@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk

Kindest regards,

Mr Lett and Mrs Miles