



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Year 6: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Summer 1, April 2018

Dear Parents,

The summer term has arrived and this will of course be the very last term of your child's primary education. This term is always very busy, but for Year 6 it is also very important! The children will first take their Key Stage 2 National Tests, better known as SATs, and this will involve a few weeks of revising, rehearsing and preparing. Please see below for the planned testing timetable for SATs week which commences week beginning Monday 14th May 2018.



After SATs week the focus in Year 6 will shift to working on several projects and preparing for special events, including their transition to secondary school. Some of these key projects and events include running the second hand school uniform shop, planning the organisation of Sports Day for Early Years and Key Stage 1, producing their anthology *Memories of St. Mary's* and auditioning for the eagerly anticipated school production! Please do refer to the diary dates section of this parent letter to keep an eye on all of the things to look forward to.

Testing timetable

YEAR 6 SATs WEEK - WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 14 th MAY 2017				
MONDAY 14 th May	TUESDAY 15 th May	WEDNESDAY 16 th May	THURSDAY 17 th May	FRIDAY 18 th May
English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1: Questions	English Reading	Mathematics Paper 1: Arithmetic	Mathematics Paper 3: Reasoning	Picnic in Wandsworth Park
English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 2: Spelling		Mathematics Paper 2: Reasoning		

It is essential that your child is punctual and not absent from school during this important testing week and likewise in the weeks leading up to the tests. If your child is taken ill during SATs week, please contact Miss Payne to let her know as soon as possible.

SATs 'Brain Boosting' Breakfast

To promote a really positive start to each day during SATs Week we would like to invite every Year 6 child to join us for an exclusive Year 6 Brain Boosting Breakfast - served 8.30am Monday-Thursday in the school hall. This breakfast will be offered free of charge and will help to ensure that no child feels they have had a rushed or hectic start to the day. Further information will be sent home in a separate letter in due course.

Picnic in Wandsworth Park

To help the children relax after all the hard work of the tests we plan to visit Wandsworth Park for a class picnic on Friday 18th May. Further information will be sent home in a separate letter in due course.

The Curriculum

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

English	<p>We will be revising features of fiction and non-fiction writing and applying these features confidently in independent writing activities. Everyone must continue to read a range of texts on a daily basis to improve fluency and speed. Our Power of Reading text (after the SATs) will be 'Way Home' by Libby Hathorn - a very thought provoking picture book!</p> <p>The children's auditions and rehearsals for the school production will of course help improve speaking and listening skills. However, the production will provide a great opportunity for the class to study a play script in detail and enhance their drama and performance skills.</p> <p>Spelling tests will continue to be held on Friday - please ensure meanings of words are learnt as well as the spellings!</p>
Maths	<p>In maths the children will be covering all aspects of maths through practice test questions from past papers with a focus on their reasoning skills. They will also be looking at how to answer word problems. As always it would be really useful at home if the children are encouraged to complete the various curriculum activities on <i>Mathletics</i> - these act as good consolidation and revision tasks. Likewise, please help your child to practice all times tables up to 12x12 and rehearse mental arithmetic methods because speed is important in the arithmetic test.</p>
Topic (Science)	<p>The continuation of the topic Out of Africa - Evolution and Inheritance will take place. The class will be looking at how all life began in the sea and how fossils provide information about living things from the past. They will learn how living things evolve over time, how plants and animals adapt to their environment and how adaption leads to evolution.</p>
Topic (History)	<p>The topic on World War II will conclude with the children thinking about some of the social changes in Britain following the war and the formation of NATO. The VE Day party will take place on Wednesday 25th April - see separate letter for more details.</p>
Computing	<p>Digital technology - the children will make use of data loggers and learn about wearable technologies.</p>
R.E.	<p>How does worship and liturgy enable a Christian to grow and express their faith? In this topic the children will explore what Christian worship and liturgy is and whether it is the same all around the world. They will think about how prayer is at the heart of worship and how music enhances Christian worship.</p>
P.S.H.E.	<p>We will be completing our theme of 'Healthy Me' and then moving on to 'Relationships'. We will be exploring: how to make friends, how to solve friendship problems when they occur, how to help others feel part of a group, how to treat others with respect and how to help ourselves and others when we feel upset or hurt. By the end of the unit the children should confidently know and show what makes a good relationship.</p>
French	<p>Madame Cox will resume specialist teaching of French every Monday.</p>
Art & Design	<p>As usual the programme in Art & Design for the first half of the summer term has been set by the art team from FoSMS and this year the class will be creating work on the exciting theme of 'Cool Britannia!' A number</p>

of children have researched the theme over the Easter break; others are starting this week- simple ideas often work best. The FoSMS team are organising a fantastic exhibition of the work plus workshops and refreshments on 19th May so please put the date in your diary. The theme allocated to Year 6 is 'Britain 2050'.

Music Mrs Le Prevost will teach specialist music lessons. In Year 6 this half term our theme will be 'Roots' to link with the class topic of **Out of Africa** where we will be creating a musical performance about the effects of the slave trade in a West African village. We will be learning traditional songs and rhythms from Ghana and other African countries and developing an understanding of how music, rhythms and storytelling are central to their culture and traditions. We will be working on a performance of our own created musical, improvising descriptive music and playing percussion pieces as a group using African djembe drums. We will also be using rhythm notation to record our work.

P.E. Year 6 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday and have a second lesson on a Wednesday. This half term's activity will be cricket. Pupils will focus on developing their forward defensive shot, the straight drive and using these shots to strike a ball into space. In addition the class will practice bowling, stopping balls reaching targets and selecting the appropriate throw in different situations. Skills will be applied and knowledge of rules developed through competitive games.

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 continue to 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 16th April 2018 - INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 8.50am - Start of Summer Term 1

Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 9.15am - KS2 Holy Communion in the hall (parents welcome)
Wednesday 25th April 2018 - Year 6 VE Day Party
Friday 27th April 2018 at 9.15am - Celebration & Good Work Assembly (parents welcome)
Friday 27th April 2018 after school - Year 6 Cake Sale
Monday 7th May 2018 - May Day Bank Holiday: School Closed!
Friday 11th May 2018 at 9.15am - Celebration & Good Work Assembly (parents welcome)
Monday 14th May to Thursday 17th May - Key Stage 2 National Tests (SATs)
Friday 18th May 2018 - Whole School Photograph
Friday 18th May 2018 - Picnic in Wandsworth Park
Saturday 19th May 2018 - 'Cool Britannia' Art Exhibition
Monday 21st May to Friday 25th May - Christian Aid Week
Friday 25th May 2018 at 3.20pm - End of Summer Term 1
Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June - Half-term break
Monday 4th June 2018 at 8.50am - Start of Summer Term 2

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 - which as you now know has moved to an electronic e-mail system! 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 Ms O'Connell