

ST. MARY'S CE SCHOOL, PUTNEY

YEAR 2 BRIEFING LETTER TO PARENTS - SEPTEMBER 2020



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Endurance ~ Compassion ~ Thankfulness

Dear Parents /Carers,

It has been a real pleasure getting to know your children and getting back to some semblance of normality. I am delighted with the way the children have settled back in to school routines, especially with all the changes that have been implemented to mitigate Covid risks. That said I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting the school in bringing the children back safely and calmly. The coronavirus pandemic will continue to restrict our 'normal' school life and if you are interested in looking at how the school is managing this you should read our return to school risk assessment located on our school website.

During this half term we are informally assessing the children to identify any gaps in learning, hence the curriculum will be amended to reflect this. We are also following the Jigsaw Recovery Curriculum for well-being, giving the children knowledge and opportunities to voice their understanding and experiences from this pandemic and sharing how we can keep each other safe.

The programmes of study for this half term are as follows:

Maths: Our programme includes - **Number and Place Value:** counting objects to 100, representing numbers to 100, tens and ones, representing numbers on a place value grid, comparing numbers, ordering numbers, counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. **Addition and Subtraction-** using number facts to check calculations, comparing number sentences, making number bonds to 100, finding 1/10 more/less, adding a 2 digit and 1 digit number, subtracting 1 digit number from a 2 digit number, adding two 2 digit numbers, subtracting two 2 digit numbers, adding three 1 digit numbers, solve word problems.

Money: counting coins/notes, showing equal amounts of money, comparing amounts of money, calculating total amounts, finding change, solving two step problems.

English: We shall be writing for a range of purposes and looking at traditional stories; listening and responding to poems; reading with confidence and understanding; oral comprehension; handwriting and spelling. Our Power of Reading Text is 'Grace and Family'. Phonics work will focus on 'silent letters' in words and alternative spelling patterns. Punctuation including speech, question and exclamation marks and commas in lists will be taught.

RE: Our topic is Hinduism. We shall be exploring the importance of symbols, beliefs and teaching in Hinduism and reflecting on what it means to be a Hindu.

TOPIC 1: Science - BRAINWAVES - The Art of Learning

In this unit, we'll be finding out:

- How the brain works
- About the personal goals that help us to become better learners
- How to find out facts
- How to learn and practise skills
- How to wake up our brain
- How to look after our brain

TOPIC 2: History - PEOPLE OF THE PAST

During this unit we will be focusing on significant historical figures in History. To launch the topic we shall be holding a Famous People Parade and Party on **Wednesday 24th September**. Children are asked to dress as a famous person from history and come to school prepared to share a few interesting facts about that person.

In this topic we shall be:

- Exploring the decisions that rulers had to make in the past
- Using a living graph to explore how a famous person might have been feeling
- Finding out about a famous explorer using maps and role play
- Comparing an explorer from the past with a modern-day explorer
- Finding out about a famous scientist
- Finding out about important inventors and their inventions
- Comparing what life was like at different times in the past

MUSIC (with Mrs Le Prevost): In Year 2 this term we will be focusing on developing listening skills by being aware of sounds around us and trying out the different timbres of instruments, as well as listening to music by and learning about a famous classical composer to link in with our class topic 'People of the Past'.

Recorder lessons will take place on Wednesday afternoons commencing on 7th October. Please ensure your child has a named recorder for their lesson each week.

ART (with Mrs Adams): Across the school we will be developing our drawing skills this half term. Year 2 will use their sketch-books from the start of the Autumn Term and we will include portraits from art history throughout the year. I will introduce the Class to the proportions of the face using a variety of media.

COMPUTING: We shall be learning about e-safety using the Hector's World programme.

PSHE: We will be covering the topic of 'Being Me in My World.' We will be writing a class learning charter, looking at our hopes and fears for the year, our rights and responsibilities, rewards and consequences.

PE: (with Ms Wolkowska- Coach V). PE will take place on Monday and Tuesday mornings. On both days children may come to school in PE kits. PE kits can be worn all day. Please ensure your child has the

correct PE kit (named). This half term pupils will focus on movement and ball skills. They will link a range of movement patterns and find space. In addition the class will practice throwing and catching individually, dribble, pass and receive using different pieces of equipment.

Y2 Home Learning Routines:

It is expected that children will read aloud every night for at least 10 minutes. Inside the front and back covers of the Oxford Reading Tree books, there are useful questions to ask your child to probe their understanding of the text. A sheet containing questions to probe your child's understanding and comprehension skills has been sent home via their Reading Folders this week. Please refer to these before, during and after reading together. **Reading folders to be returned to school every Wednesday** only, in order to limit the amount of items brought back and forward into school each day. Class teachers will be listening and assessing reading using other books during the course of the week. Reading folders will be returned home every Thursday after book change. Could you please ensure that you write in the Reading Journal when your child has finished their books, otherwise we'll assume they haven't been read and they won't be changed! Books will be changed, if requested, on **WEDNESDAYS ONLY**. Any other comments or feedback regarding your child's reading are always welcome via the online PACT book.

All home learning is set on Friday to be returned/completed by the following Wednesday (in reading folders where applicable).

Handwriting reinforcement is to be completed using the Letter Join online programme (login: lj9376 password: home). As the children have very different needs with regard to handwriting, I recommend you go into the Year 2 folder and chose an appropriate letter pattern each week, to suite your child's ability. In class we are focusing on correct posture for handwriting and basic pattern formation.

Spelling tests will now take place on **Thursdays** and results will be written on the card if it is handed in. Test cards are sent home so that you can see how they did and what your child needs to learn the following week. Dictation sentences that reinforce the spellings learnt and tested in the previous week are also to be completed each week (on the reverse of the spelling cards - green books).

Grammar reinforcement sheets will be sent home, for the children to complete (if applicable) and to let you know what we have been covering in class. These do not need to be returned.

Maths home learning: We use the Mathletics online programme to reinforce learning in class each week. Login details for your child have been set home tonight with a covering letter. Please make copies of these logins in case they get lost. Two Mathletics tasks will be set every Friday to be completed by the following Wednesday. Children are also encouraged to engage with the other Mathletics online games to support their learning too.

Children are expected to name and **complete all home learning in pencil** (unless they have been chosen as 'Handwriter of the week,' in which case, for that week they can do their dictation home learning in pen). Please can you also encourage your child to hand in their home learning with their Reading Folders every Wednesday.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via the online PACT book if you require any further information or to inform me of other matters relating to your child. As always the best way to contact me is through the use of the Class2018 e-mail. I check these emails by 8.45 a.m. each day. If you have an urgent matter after this time, please notify the office.

Please check the school website frequently for updates and reminders. The school actively uses two social media platforms to communicate school news and events, so please check them out and follow us (Facebook and Twitter).

Kindest regards,

Wendy Livingstone

(Year 2 Class Teacher)