



St. Mary's C.E. School
Year 3: Half Termly Letter to Parents
Autumn 2, November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second part of the Autumn Term. We are very pleased with the children's success in settling into their new class and abiding and managing the government regulation. The class have certainly become more independent with their organisational skills and attitude towards learning. We hope the children will continue to enjoy their time in Year 3.

The Curriculum

Below is an outline of the Year 3 curriculum for this half term:

<p><u>English:</u></p>	<p>In English, we will be reinforcing and adding to the grammar, spelling and punctuation that we learned last half-term as well as exploring and creating poetry, fact files, biographies, diaries, story maps, newspaper articles and letters.</p> <p>Our Power of Reading books for this half term are "Gregory Cool" by Caroline Binch and "African Tales, a Barefoot Collection" by Gcina Mhlophe.</p> <p>These books link with our topic, both truly capturing the nature of similarities and differences and the joy of trying new things and embracing cultures different from our own.</p> <p>The children really enjoy slowly discovering the text as a class, for this reason please refrain from buying this text and reading it with them, so the magic and wonder of revealing each page can be captured in class and allow the children to be excited to write and discuss the book.</p> <p>I want to encourage their enthusiasm to explore reading, so I recommend the following texts which are related to our class text "African Tales, a Barefoot Collection":</p> <p>"Stories of Africa" by Gcina Mhlophe and "Africa, Amazing Africa" by Atinuke.</p>
<p><u>Maths:</u></p> <p><u>Geography</u></p>	<p>As mathematicians we will be looking at subtraction and addition and multiplication and division including:</p> <p>Adding and subtracting numbers with up to three digits, using formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction. Adding and subtracting mentally. Estimating the answer to a calculation and using inverse operations to check. Solving problems, including missing number problems, using number facts, place value, more complex addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. Recalling and using multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.</p> <p>Our topic this term will be 'Island Life'.</p> <p>The purpose of this topic is to help children understand both the similarities and differences of islands across the world. It aims to explore the geographical features of islands and some of the cultural aspects of island life, and give the children an understanding of the differences and similarities of locations.</p> <p>Through this topic the children will gain an understanding of how islands vary in size, location, habitat and climate, but all are surrounded by water. As one in six people live on an island, we will explore what some islands are like both near and far!</p> <p>How to support your child's learning:</p> <p>I highly recommend watching Sir David Attenborough's series "Seven Worlds - One Planet", this seven-part series is linked to our topic and will explore the extraordinary wildlife stories and</p>

unseen wilderness of our seven unique continents. Also Planet Earth II, Islands which looks at remote islands.

I recommend the following books which are linked to our learning this half-term:

- Hey, Water! By Antoinette Portis
- A Drop in the Ocean by Jacqui Bailey
- Adventures Around the Globe, by Lonely Planet
- Follow That Map! By Franklin Watts

As Geographers, we'll be finding out about where different islands are located in the world and finding them on maps, atlases and globes, how different islands are formed, where the 7 continents are located, the locations of coast, rivers and mountains of the UK, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, which countries are in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, how to locate and describe the physical features of islands using geographical vocabulary, how to use the 4 points on a compass to give directions, how to use grid references, how to draw a map using a key and symbols and how people's lives are affected by weather.

RE:

At the beginning of the term, as theologians, we will be exploring the question: What Do The Monastic Traditions Within Christianity Show Us About Living In Community?

By exploring this question, the children will learn that there are monastic communities of men and of women within the Church of England; living in a monastic community is a particular way of living out the Christian faith, followed by some people; there are different models of monastic life, some active, some contemplative; living in community with others offers challenges, as well as opportunities and Christian commitment takes different forms for different people.

During the last few weeks of term we will consider the question:

How Do Advent and Epiphany Show Us What Christmas Is Really About? Through answering this question, the children will learn about Advent as a time of preparation and look at the signs in the Bible that point to the birth of Jesus. Also they will discover the impact of the message of Christmas on the people of God and the clues to be found in the celebration of Epiphany about Jesus' life.

Computing

Due to current restrictions, we will not be using the computer suite for our computing lessons. Lessons will take place in the Year 3 classroom where the children will continue to explore e-**Safety**. As part of our topic and English lessons, we will use the internet to find reliable information about islands, bodies of water and to answer our questions and find information and source images to create a fact file/

Art:

Mrs Adams will provide specialist teaching of Art lessons, this will take place in the Year 3 classroom. Year 3 will learn about the work of Diana Beltran Herrera, a Colombian British based artist who specialises in paper sculpture. They will develop modelling skills with foil, wire and tape to create birds inspired by island humming birds.

Music:

Mrs Le Prevost will provide specialist teaching of Music lessons - again in the Year 3 classroom. This half term we will be looking at music from different islands from around the world to see how different it can be depending on its origin, which will link in with their class topic of Island Life. Leading on from this will be to create our own island music, using ideas from other composers as to the type of island we would like to represent. As the class will be focusing on Trinidad & Tobago as a destination in other lessons, we will learn songs and the culture of these islands as well as African music generally.

We will be continuing our flute lessons on a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure that your child remembers to bring in their flute every Wednesday. It is also essential that your child practices every week.

<u>PE:</u>	Year 3 will continue to have PE lessons on a Monday, with Coach Wolkowska. The children will concentrate on tag rugby; passing, receiving, defending and attacking skills. Understanding the rules of the game and game scenario. Using teamwork approach, space awareness and respect of other players. Children will be learning all skills associated with effective passing, movement and change of direction and speed. Agility and speed the key fitness components. Please note that the Children will need to come into school dressed in their PE kits every <u>Monday and Thursday.</u>
<u>PSHE:</u>	Our theme is Celebrating Difference. We will look at how families are different in structure, dealing with differences and conflicts, the role of witnesses in bullying, words that harm and how our words can affect others.
<u>French</u>	Madame Claudine will continue to teach French every Wednesday, reinforcing what we have already learned and adding to our vocabulary. This half-term our main focus will be recognising some family words in French; beginning to understand and say words for objects in a school bag; understanding and using words for colours and where they sit in a sentence, learning about the legend of St. Nicolas . Discussing Christmas traditions in France; how are they different to British traditions? And learning some words connected with Christmas in French.

Although the children have had an incredible start to the school year and seem to have settled into a routine, anxiety levels may fluctuate especially with the ever changing restrictions imposed by Covid-19. With this in mind, please remember that we are all in this together; and we are here to support you and your child. If you have any concerns, please use the PACT e-mail to let us know.

Regards,

Alisha McCarthy (Class Teacher) & Kaya Minton (Classroom Support)

HOME LEARNING - Please look out for updates regarding how home learning tasks will be assigned

(Assigned on **Fridays** due in **Wednesday**)

Maths Homework: Children to complete assigned online tasks on Mathletics. Login details to be sent home via your child.

English homework: Children should complete the task emailed. Please email the completed task to the class PACT email (class2017@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk) either by scanning or taking a photograph.

Spellings and Timetables: Children should be practicing their spellings and timetables daily. Tests will be on a **Friday**.

Reading: Children are expected to read at home every night for at least 15 minutes. It is important that the children read aloud to you regularly and they also benefit greatly from you reading to them. Reading things such as articles in encyclopedias, newspaper, recipes, instruction texts, etc. Will broaden their understanding of reading across different contexts too.

Regarding the English home learning task. Can you please ensure that

1. Work is presented clearly.
2. Children write with a writing pencil
3. Work is completed as independently as possible - **but it would be beneficial for them to have it checked over for accurate punctuation and neatness before it is handed in. Please comment if you have had to help significantly.**
4. Avoid overuse of an eraser - cross out mistakes neatly - **we can learn from our mistakes!**

Keep in the loop with social media

The school actively uses 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/>