



10th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to St. Mary's! We hope your children have enjoyed the first few days and are starting to feel settled. This letter contains some key information regarding the next school year for your child.

Homework Diaries/Reading

The children have all be given a St. Mary's homework diary/reading record. They will need to make sure they bring this to school each day. Every Monday (starting 10th September) a weekly information sheet will be stuck into the book with any homework and notices and we will also check that the weekly reading has been completed. Reading is so important to furthering all aspects of your child's education; we ask that you listen to your child read a few pages each night and record it in the homework diary. If they read 5 times a week they will be rewarded with a sticker which goes in the back of the diary. School reading books will be sent home soon. If your child has finished reading their book, it is their responsibility to change the books using the boxes outside the year three classrooms and we will give the children opportunities during the school day to do this. Your child will be allocated a reading book based on assessments of their spoken word reading and comprehension ability. If your child is a 'red' reader they will be asked to choose a book from our school library. It does take some time to add all the new pupils onto our library system so 'red' readers may read books from home until this has been completed.

Homework diaries may be used as a communication method between home and school, however we ask that if you have written a message through the diary please ask your child to highlight this to us so that important messages aren't missed.

Homework

At St. Mary's, we value homework as an important tool to reinforce taught concepts and provide further links between home and school. Homework builds in good time management and responsibility skills as well as preparation for the future. If at any point homework is a cause for concern, please do let your child's class teacher know.

The homework for Year 3 is as follows:

Reading – Reading aloud to an adult at least 5 times a week recorded in the homework diary. This will be checked by the teacher or teaching assistant each Monday. During guided reading sessions in school, we will be focussing on checking your children's comprehension skills by asking questions that assess their ability to do the following:

Locate information in the text, interpret and unlock information from clues in the text, think about word choices that the author has made to help understand what is happening and finally predict what might happen next. Please feel free to use this as a guideline to ask your own questions at home as this will help to further deepen the children's understanding of what they are reading.

Mathletics – This is a computer programme that is widely used in schools and enables the children to practise key maths skills. Once the children have been given their username and password (they will get these in the next couple of weeks), we will set the children tasks to complete that are related to what we have been learning in school the week before. They will need to log on with the username and password (which will be stuck in the front cover of their communication book) on a Friday and this

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should aim to be completed by the following Friday. The website can be found using any standard search engine when typing in 'mathletics' or the web address www.mathletics.com. Please let us know if you have issues logging on or have difficulty accessing the internet at home.

Spellings – Differentiated spellings for learning will be set each Friday for a test on the following Friday. Please get the children to copy the list three times using a 'look, cover, write, check' and practise using other methods. No more than 10 spellings will be set each week.

Times tables – This year we will introduce a times table challenge called Mathjitsu. The children attempt to complete the challenges and move through different coloured jujitsu belts/bands starting with white. The children have 5 minutes to correctly complete all 36 questions which involve 12 times table questions, 12 division questions and 12 that involve finding missing numbers using these facts. The challenge is designed so that the children gain secure knowledge of their tables and not just know them by 'rote' learning. Therefore, they will need to practise seeing the questions reversed i.e. 2×6 being the same as 6×2 and know the division facts to go with this. White band level is attached to the bottom of this letter so that you know what the children need to be doing to practise (we will discuss with them various ways that they can learn their tables). Please note, we will not be sending a copy of the other levels home so that we know the children are practising to gain that deeper knowledge and not just memorising the answers.

PE Kit

Please ensure that your children have full P.E kits. It is essential that they have a pair of trainers for use on the playground and field as plimsolls are not suitable for this.

After school collection

Please make sure that you stand by the ball court fence. This is because it is essential that all of the children are collected safely and if there are adults waiting in different directions it is easy to lose track of where the children are being collected.

Communication

Please feel free to communicate with any member of the Year 3 team through one of the following ways:

- A note in the homework diary
- An addressed letter
- An email
- A meeting arranged through the school office or class teacher
- Dojo message

Your child's teacher will usually be available after school during dismissal on the playground for quick conversations (please wait until all of the children have left with their parents/carers before approaching as we need to concentrate on making sure all of the children have gone safely). Often teachers are running clubs or have meetings scheduled so if longer conversations are required, please arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Class Dojo

This year we will continue to use Class Dojo. Within the classroom the children can earn 'dojo' awards – which they find very exciting! You can see the reward points your child has been given and they will be able to tell you why they have earned them.



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A feature you may enjoy is the 'Class Story' – where teachers can post up photos of learning in action for you to enjoy. These pictures can only be accessed by individual codes which have already been supplied to you.

Helping in school

We welcome any offers of help in school – be it weekly, fortnightly or once in a while! All volunteers will need to undergo a DBS check, please ask at the school office for a form. If you are able to help please speak to your child's teacher to arrange a suitable slot.

We will soon need volunteers to help on our Oxted locality trip (October 2018) and our visit to the Nanak Community Sikh Centre (January 2019). Exact dates for these trips will be confirmed in letters to follow that will be sent home.

We are very much looking forward to working with you to make your child's experience in Year 3 a rewarding and successful one.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Wanstall
Year 3 Leader

E-mail

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Mathjitsu Times Tables – White Band

10 Times Table		
Know	Use	Apply
$2 \times 10 =$	$10 \div 10 =$	$10 \times \underline{\quad} = 20$
$7 \times 10 =$	$80 \div 10 =$	$\underline{\quad} \times 10 = 60$
$12 \times 10 =$	$40 \div 10 =$	$80 \div \underline{\quad} = 10$
$5 \times 10 =$	$50 \div 10 =$	$\underline{\quad} \div 4 = 10$
$9 \times 10 =$	$70 \div 10 =$	$10 \times \underline{\quad} = 70$
$3 \times 10 =$	$110 \div 10 =$	$\underline{\quad} \div 10 = 10$
$1 \times 10 =$	$30 \div 10 =$	$\underline{\quad} \times 10 = 10$
$10 \times 10 =$	$90 \div 10 =$	$10 \times \underline{\quad} = 90$
$4 \times 10 =$	$20 \div 10 =$	$30 \div \underline{\quad} = 10$
$6 \times 10 =$	$60 \div 10 =$	$\underline{\quad} \times 10 = 50$
$8 \times 10 =$	$100 \div 10 =$	$10 \times \underline{\quad} = 120$
$11 \times 10 =$	$120 \div 10 =$	$\underline{\quad} \div 10 = 11$
Total	Total	Total

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