



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the warm summer has been a pleasant one for you and your families. As we welcome your children back to St Mary's for their final year I thought it would be useful for you to have some information about learning, homework and expectations for the year ahead.

### **Trips and In-School Events**

This year the children will be attending a 'Play in a Day' experience and will be going to the Imperial War Museum (in summer term). In addition to this we will be working through a mental maths revision book in preparation for SATS. For these events/resources we are asking for a contribution of £10. This should cover all costs for the year other than swimming and the Bowles residential trip. Please make payments via cash/cheque or Tucasi. More information on Bowles will follow soon.

### **Key Dates**

The school newsletter and website have full information about the term dates, whole school events and INSET days but please take note of these dates that are especially important to Year 6.

18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 MOCK SATS week

13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019 SATS week - *It is essential that no holidays or non-emergency appointments are made for this week.*

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June Bowles Residential trip

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Transition day (for children moving on to Oxted School in Year 7)

### **School Resources**

Children should arrive each day to school ready for lessons with the following equipment:

- Blue handwriting pens
- Pencils
- Gluestick

Other resources are available to borrow if needed but children may also bring in their own colour pencils or felt tips. Their own belongings must fit into ONE pencil case. In addition to this, children should arrive to school each day with their homework diary, a reading book (this can be a home book or a library book) and a water bottle (water only).

### **Curriculum**

This term children will be learning about the Mayans, Islam, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Canada, light, the circulatory system, keeping healthy, illustrators, painting, classical composers and musical composition. Maths covers a broad range of topics starting with place value, calculation including fractions and decimals/percentages. Literacy will be text-based learning with regular reading comprehension, spelling and grammar activities to develop these aspects of the curriculum.

### **Homework**

- Children are expected to read every day for 20 minutes or more (aim for at least 5 days a week). Reading can be a mix of reading aloud and reading independently. Please support this by making sure your child has some time each day to do this without interruption from

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conversation, television or the temptation of gadgets. Reading **does not** need to be recorded daily this year. Children will reflect on their week's reading in class each Monday.

- Spelling words will be given each week. Children need to complete a LSCWC for their words (at least 3 columns) but DO NOT need to do sentences. It is essential that children understand what the words mean so it would be useful if you could discuss unknown words at home (as we will do at school) since the children are not writing sentences. New words will be given on a Thursday for a test the following Wednesday. This will be accompanied by a Literacy homework (usually grammar based) to be handed in on the same day as the spelling test.
- Maths homework will be given on a Monday and needs to be returned on a Thursday. Times tables: Year 6 will be tested on these as part of the SATS exams in May. It would be useful if you continued to practise all tables at home. There are no weekly tests but continued practise and mixed recall sheets will be completed at school regularly.
- There will be two project homework tasks this year. One in autumn and one in summer.

For both Maths and Literacy homework children should spend no more than 30 minutes completing the task. If it is taking longer than this please write a note on the homework.

### **Late Homework**

In order to encourage independence and responsibility in Year 6 children as they prepare for secondary education the Year 6 team keep track of late or missing homework. Children who are late with homework 3 times or more in a term will be required to stay in at lunch to complete additional applicable work. We thank you for your co-operation with this. Please see your child's class teacher if you have any concerns or questions about homework.

### **Uniform**

It is important that children come into school each day looking neat and tidy. Please refer to the website if you are unsure about any aspects of the school uniform. It is helpful if uniform is named. Children must not wear any jewellery with the exception of small stud earrings. Under Surrey Schools Health and Safety Policy children may not wear earrings for PE/Games or any school run sport activity including tournaments and dance performances. We therefore ask that if your child has not yet had their ears pierced you refrain from allowing them to do so until the start of the summer holidays next year when there is enough time for the piercing to heal.

### **Helping in School**

We still welcome parent helpers in to school to listen to readers and support learning. If you are available for regular or ad-hoc sessions please let your child's class teacher know.

I am looking forward to working with you this year to make your child's year memorable and fulfilling. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

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