



Wednesday, 26th 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 the new school 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 we will not be taking the children to the Wide Horizon Centre, Swanage as the company has shut down. Although unfortunate, this has provided a great opportunity to look around at other trip providers. We are in the process of finalizing a new trip to Grosvenor Hall, Ashford. The dates for this trip are **Wednesday 27th February to Friday 1st March**. We are also working to arrange a Hindu visitor to support our learning in RE. In addition, we are planning to go to the Greenwich observatory as previous years have done as well as visit the Brooklands museum as it links in really well with our new history focus on changes over time. Full details about payment plans and dates will be available as soon as the transport quotes are confirmed.

Key Dates

The school newsletter and website have full information about the term dates, whole school events and INSET days. Other trip dates will be confirmed in a future letter.

School Resources

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

- Blue handwriting pens
- Pencils

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).

Children must not come to school with toys. This includes the small rubbers that can be taken apart made by companies like Smiggle.

Curriculum

This term children will be learning about changes in the monarchy and technology from 1066 onwards, Hinduism, Christmas, forces, states of matter, William Morris and much more. Maths covers a broad range of topics starting with place value, calculation including fractions and decimals/percentages. English 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 conversation, television or the temptation of gadgets. Reading should be recorded in their homework diary just like in Year 4.

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- Spelling words will be given on a 2 week rota the same as last year. Week 1 they will be tested on the spelling of the words and Week 2 will be an application test. The application test could be one of a range of activities including; matching a word to its definition, editing incorrectly spelt words or unscrambling anagrams. The expectation of what they do with their spelling book is the same as last year: children must practice their words. They can practice in any way they like and their book is one place where they might write some form of practice. However if children learn their words best by using a whiteboard, making them out of rice on a tray or by writing them in chalk on the patio, we obviously don't need to see evidence of this in their book. 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 necessarily writing sentences. New words will be given on a Friday for tests the following Thursdays.
- Mathematics will be set on a Friday and due on a Wednesday. There will be a catch up session on Wednesday lunchtimes in 5C for anyone who is not able to access an activity at home. Some activities work best on PC but we will endeavour to set as many tablet accessible ones as possible.
- Grammar sheets will be handed out every other week on Fridays, due Wednesdays, the same as Mathematics.
- Times tables will be tested each week on a Friday. By Year 5 all children should know their times tables facts to 12x12 including division as without this knowledge they struggle to complete Fractions/Decimal/Percentage tasks as well as formal multiplication and division.

In summary all homework is set on a Friday. Due dates are: Timestables - Friday, Spelling - Thursday and other homework - Wednesday. Catch up session for homework is Wednesday lunchtime in 5C. 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 in the homework diary and allow them to leave it unfinished. Sometimes homework may be set on something we haven't covered recently to gauge their retention.

Late Homework

Please message the class teacher if there is a reason for homework not being in on time. Children may be asked to complete late homework during break or lunch times to ensure they have not missed the opportunity.

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 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. Large bows are also not permitted in the school uniform policy.

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Helping in School

We still welcome parent helpers in to school to listen to readers and support learning on occasion. Teachers will send dojo messages when parent helpers are needed.

I 'm looking forward to working with this year group again and I hope Year 5 is an enjoyable experience for all. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sam Collins

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