



Friday 13th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the 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

We will be welcoming a visitor on **15th October 2019** who will be leading workshops on Hinduism. This year our residential trip will be to **Swanage** from **27th – 29th April 2020**. We are going to be visiting a different centre to the one that previous year groups have been to. Our main focus for this trip is Geography fieldwork, we will be conducting a comparative study of rocky and sandy shorelines. On **6th July 2020** we will be going to the **Greenwich observatory** as previous years have done as this links well with our Science topic, Space.

Key Dates

Autumn Term 2019

Harvest Festival – Tuesday 22nd October

Parents Evening – Wednesday 23rd October and Thursday 24th October

Individual and Sibling Photos – Thursday 24th October

Half Term – Saturday 26th October – Sunday 3rd November

INSET DAY – Monday 4th November

Christmas Holidays – Saturday 21st December – Sunday 5th January

Spring Term 2020

Term Dates – Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

Parents Evening Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February

INSET DAY – Monday 6th January

Half Term – Saturday 15th February – Sunday 23rd February

Term Dates – Monday 24th February – Friday 3rd April

Easter Holidays – Saturday 4th April – Sunday 19th April

Summer Term 2020

Term Dates – Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May

May Day Holiday – Friday May 8th

Term Dates – Tuesday 5th May – Friday 22nd May

Half Term – Saturday 23rd May – Sunday 31st May

Term Dates – Monday 1st June – Wednesday 22nd July

INSET DAY – Monday 1st June

Sports Day – Friday 10th July

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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, glue stick and ruler. 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.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- This year we are sharing a document called 'How to help at home' this is instead of the grammar sheets and other activities that we have set in the past. This document outlines ways that you can support your child's learning through activities outside of school.

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.

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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

Year 5 Leader s.collins@stmarysprimary.org

Mrs J Gautrey j.gautrey@stmarysprimary.org

Mr A Skilton a.skilton@stmarysprimary.org

Mrs L Sullivan l.sullivan@stmarysprimary.org

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