



12<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to St. Mary's! We hope your children have enjoyed the first couple of weeks and are starting to feel settled. This letter contains some key information regarding the next school year for your child. As the situation with Covid-19 unfolds, we need to adapt to changes in how school is run. We will try to keep you updated with changes every step of the way. Thank you for your support and understanding.

### Communication book/Reading record

The children have all be given a St. Mary's communication book, which also acts as a reading record. They will need to make sure they bring this to school each day. Every Monday, a weekly information sheet will be stuck into the book with any homework and notices. We will also check that the weekly reading has been completed. Homework and notices will also be posted on Class dojo and Google classroom. If your child reads at least 5 times a week, they will be rewarded with a dojo. 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. We will give the children opportunities during the school day to do this. Your child will be allocated a reading book based on their fluency and comprehension skills. 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. With the current situation in mind, the library will only be open at certain times for each year group so we will adapt as we go along.

The communication books may be used as a communication method between home and school. We ask that if you have written a message in the book, please get your child to highlight this to us so that important messages are not missed.

### Homework

At St. Mary's, we value homework as an important tool to consolidate concepts and provide further links between home and school. Homework helps build children's sense of responsibility and time management skills in 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 and record in the communication book. This will be checked by the teacher or teaching assistant every Monday.

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

**Times tables** – Over the last few years, we have introduced a times table ladder that the child aim to climb. This has proved to be hugely successful and has created a real sense of competition amongst the children enabling them to gain confidence in maths as they progress. It has 20 levels (see bottom of the letter) and we are aiming for the children to get near to level 10 by the end of year 3.

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## **Home Learning**

In the event that your child needs to self-isolate, we will be setting home learning weekly on Google Classroom. This is only to be completed if children are not attending school. Your child will not be expected to complete this work if they are unwell and need rest. Work will be set for a week and will not be checked daily by a teacher. If you have any urgent queries about the work please send us a Dojo message.

## **Other Information**

### **PE Kit**

Due to the restrictions of COVID-19, we have decided that the children wear their PE kit to school on their given day – they have already been doing this. As the weather gets colder, please ensure a sweatshirt is included in the PE kit (not school cardigan or jumper). Under Surrey Schools Health and Safety Policy, children may not wear earrings for PE. 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. Our normal PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### **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. Uniform must be named. Children must not wear any jewellery with the exception of small stud earrings.

### **Communication**

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

- A note in the communication book
- An addressed letter
- An email

### **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.

A feature you may enjoy is the 'Class Story' – where teachers can post on photos/videos of learning in action for you to enjoy. Dojo can only be accessed by downloading the app and using individual codes. Please let your teacher know if you need another copy of this.



### **Helping in School**

At present, we are unable to have adults into school but we will let you know in due course if this changes.

### **Key Dates**

The school newsletter and website have full information about the term dates, whole school events and INSET days. Trip dates are currently under review based on the current COVID-19 guidelines and more information will follow on this.

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

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Times Table Ladder levels

level 1	level 2	level 3	level 4	level 5	level 6	level 7	level 8	level 9	level 10
10 questions x2	15 questions x2 x10	20 questions x2 x10 x5	25 questions x2 x10 x5 x4	30 questions x2 x10 x5 x4 x8	35 questions x2 x10 x5 x4 x8 x3	40 questions x2 x10 x5 x4 x8 x3 x6	45 questions x2 x10 x5 x4 x8 x3 x6 x9	50 questions x2 x10 x5 x4 x8 x3 x6 x9 x7	100 questions covering all x facts!
level 11	level 12	level 13	level 14	level 15	level 16	level 17	level 18	level 19	level 20
40 questions All tables including related ÷ facts	60 questions All tables including related ÷ facts	40 x & ÷ questions including squared numbers	50 x & ÷ questions including squared numbers and square roots	50 x & ÷ questions including squared numbers and square roots	60 x & ÷ questions including squared numbers and square roots and related facts like 20 x 5	70 x & ÷ questions including squared numbers and square roots and related facts like 20 x 5	80 x & ÷ questions including squared numbers and square roots and related facts like 20 x 5	90 x & ÷ questions including squared numbers and square roots and related facts like 20 x 50 & 80 ÷ 4	100 x & ÷ questions including squared numbers and square roots and related facts like 20 x 50 & 80 ÷ 4

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