



Friday 3rd September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn is upon us and so is the new school year. As we welcome your children back to St. Mary's for their penultimate 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

Although we can't be certain how the year will unfold, we are very much hoping that we will be able to take the children on a residential trip (3 days in Dorset) and on a day trip or two! Please see key dates below. More information about trips 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 5.

Dorset - 16th, 17th & 18th March TBC

Greenwich - TBC

Shakespeare – in school throughout the first half of spring term with a performance on Thursday 3rd March (TBC)

School Resources

Children need a well-stocked pencil cases. Please can you provide blue hand writing pens, pencils, rubbers, a short ruler (or long if it fits in the pencil case) and a glue stick. Children may also want to have their own colour pencils or felt tips. They do not need gel pens. Pencil cases will be kept at school and sent home at the end of each half term for a tidy and refresh.

Curriculum

This term children will be learning about Continuity and Change in British History, Materials and Forces in Science, Renaissance Art, Hinduism and Christianity in RE, Online safety and word processing in Computing. 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.

Full details on what we cover in year 5 can be found on the school website.

Homework

Children will no longer be required to practice spellings at home. We will now be focusing on the learning of spellings at school. The focus for learning at home should be reading regularly and times table revision.

- 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. Children will not be given paper reading records this year. Instead, we will be logging reading on the GoRead app. Separate details of how to log on to this will follow soon. Reading and developing your child's vocabulary are the best ways to support your child's learning this year!
- Tables tests: Children will be tested on tables each Wednesday. The test will cover all tables up to 12x12 and related division facts. It is very important that children are fluent with their tables and although we

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will be doing some practise in school, they will need to continue to recite the times tables at home so that they increase their speed of recall. The ability to recall multiplication and division fact quickly will support all other areas of maths.

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. Where possible we would love children to join in live for Maths and Literacy lessons if they are going to miss a significant amount of time due to isolation.

Uniform

Children should arrive to school each day in the correct uniform. PE kit should be worn to school on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** for PE days. Please make sure children are suitably dressed so they do not feel too cold. We are still keeping doors open to ensure ventilation so it is sometimes cool in the classrooms! 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 sports activities 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. Any child who is wearing earrings on PE days must be able to remove and replace them by themselves. Alternatively, please remove the earrings before school.

Communication

Teachers are available via email, Dojo or written letter. Please note that urgent messages should be sent to the school office not via Dojo as there is no guarantee we will see the message in time to tell your child. We will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as possible but do remember that when we are teaching we won't see messages until the end of the school day.

We are 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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