

Information for parents/carers-please keep safe for future reference.



Term: Spring 2 2019/20
Year group: 5

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to St Mary's RC Primary School, Battersea. We hope that you and your family had a lovely half-term break.

Spring is on its way! The mornings are getting lighter and the staff are refreshed and invigorated, after another excellent training day with fellow Wandsworth Catholic primary schools, at Sacred Heart Primary School in Roehampton. The morning focused on curriculum development led by outside speakers with expertise in RE (linked to art and the God Who Speaks), Science, History and Geography. In the afternoon, teachers met in their different subjects to share good practice and to consider next steps as a Catholic cluster in regards to teaching and learning and curriculum development. We all then met for a closing liturgy with Deacon Michael. So all in all, a lovely and inspirational start to the half term.

During this period of Lent, it is a perfect time for the children to reflect upon their personal goals, attitude to learning and the choices that they make both in class and in the playground, and in their relationships with others. As it mentions in the most recent Wednesday Word,

'Lent is a time for us to make an extra effort to listen carefully to God's word, to try and make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others.'

So that your child/children have a smooth transition back to school this half term, please continue to develop positive learning behaviours at home by encouraging your child to:

- Show **curiosity** and **creativity** by discussing their homework with you, asking questions related to their learning and suggesting ideas.
- Demonstrate **concentration** by finding a quiet area in which to study and organising what they need to complete their homework
- Show **effort, improvement, perseverance** and **resilience** by completing homework tasks fully, to a good standard of presentation and to the best of their ability
- Demonstrate **teamwork** by speaking to their class (or set teacher) before the due date if they need assistance or clarification, and ensuring that they hand homework in on time, so that the class can work together when revising learning and addressing misconceptions.

PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

We continue to celebrate the positive attributes of every child this year through awarding 'Pupil of the Day', which is part of PATHS, our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) programme. This award is given out at random on a daily basis to our pupils. We hope you continue to enjoy hearing the compliments your child receives!

Please see <http://www.pathseducation.co.uk/> for more details.

-Here is a brief outline of what your child will be learning about this half term:

Subject	Coverage	Suggestions as to how you can support learning at home
English	<p>This half-term, we will be studying <i>The Highwayman</i> by Alfred Noyes. Our writing this half term will be inspired by <i>The Highwayman</i> and will include newspaper reports and fictional recounts.</p>	<p>Try to make sure your child reads as much as possible and ask them questions about what they're reading to deepen understanding.</p> <p>Read through your child's English homework and, as well as answering his or her questions, ask your child: "Why have you written that?" and: "Can you make that more interesting?"</p>
Maths	<p>Mental maths: Focus on 7 and 12 x tables.</p> <p>This half term we will continue to focus on fractions. We will revise equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions. We will then go onto comparing and ordering. Finally, we will look at adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions.</p> <p>We will also focus on times speed and accuracy in times tables.</p>	<p>Assist with your child's homework (but don't do it for them!)</p> <p>Ask your child simple x tables questions all the time – eg: "What is 4 x 8?" Knowledge of times tables is so important and makes everything else a lot easier!</p> <p>Encourage the use of mathematical language eg: "How many digits are there in the number 10,000?"</p> <p>Also discuss fractions at home. Divide food up into thirds, quarters, fifths etc. Take two slices of pizza and discuss the fraction that is left!</p>
RE	<p>We will be exploring the topic of sacrifice during Lent. We will discuss our own Lenten promises and why these are important. We will also revise the events that led to Jesus' death and subsequent rising.</p>	<p>Pray every night with your child and encourage them to pray on their own. Encourage selfless prayer: asking God for forgiveness. Also, guide and help their understanding Christian responsibilities.</p>
Science	<p>Properties of Materials: In science, we will be looking at materials and how different materials react in different environments.</p>	<p>Try to encourage your child to be mindful of their surroundings and how many different materials exist in our everyday life. It could be particularly interesting to focus on how temperature changes materials- e.g. ice melting.</p>
Topic	<p>This half-term, we will be learning about the invasions of the Scots and Anglo-Saxons in the 5th century. We will find out where the invading troops came from and where in Britain they managed to settle and then we will go on to investigate how life in Britain changed as a result. In addition to this we will also learn what life was like in a typical Anglo-Saxon village, what jobs people did and what the houses were like. Finally we will investigate how and why the Anglo-Saxons were largely converted to Christianity by the early 7th century.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to research and read about history with a focus on Anglo-Saxon times. Ask questions that fire their imagination, such as, "What might life have been like for children in the 5th century?"</p>
Computing	<p>This half term, we will be continuing to develop our programming skills using 'Hopscotch'.</p>	<p>You can download 'Scratch' (it's free!) at: https://scratch.mit.edu/</p> <p>Please encourage internet research at home.</p>
PE	<p>This term we will be focusing on Hockey. Children will be learning how to move safely when handling a hockey stick. Children will then learn to use a range of sending, receiving and traveling techniques. By the end of the term, they should have a basic understanding of tactics & rules.</p>	<p>Please encourage children to do some sort of physical activity every day after school.</p>

Music	This half term, we will continue our singing project with Wandsworth Music Service. We are looking forward to the performance (with full orchestra) at the world-famous Royal Albert Hall on the 1 st of April!	Please help your child practice the songs and actions by accessing the resources at - http://www.tinyurl.com/wsmspring2020
PATHS	This half term, we will complete our sessions on goals and identity , before starting a unit on 'Making and Keeping Friends' .	Encourage your child to discuss their emotions and talk about ways to resolve conflicts.
Italian (KS2 only)	During this half term, we will be working on some grammar, and how to describe daily routines. We will also learn about the exciting Italian festival of Carnevale , which is a celebration before the start of lent.	If you know any Italian- speak it with your child. If not, why not ask your child to speak some to you?

Where possible we like to take the children out of school, or invite visitors in to speak to the children to enrich their learning. This half term we will visit Burntwood School for a **singing rehearsal** and the Royal Albert Hall for the **concert**.

On Thursday the 19th of March, we will be visited by Wandsworth Road Safety Team's fantastic Year 5 Air Quality and Sustainable Travel Education Programme - '**Abbie Ayre and the Shed of Science**'. This should be an exciting afternoon, as we enjoy an engaging show with an important message.

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spellings	Friday	Tuesday	Test your child and ask them to use the words in sentences. Check they understand the meaning.
Maths			Check and assist if needed.
English			Check and assist if needed.
Reading	Every evening		Check that your child is reading every evening. They should write which pages they have read in their reading record. Ask them questions about what they have read. Please listen to your child read at least once a week.

Each class will perform two class assemblies this year. Our second assembly will be on **Thursday 21st May 2020**.

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches. Please send your child in with his or her PE kit on Monday, and leave it at school until Friday. Any absences from PE need to be explained in a letter.

PE days for Year 5 are Mondays and Tuesdays.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on these days.

Children who are attending the Emanuel School programme this term will also need their PE kit on a Friday.

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child's class teacher at any time should you wish to discuss progress, attainment or welfare or if you have any questions or worries. We all want happy children who are ready to learn and happy families ready to support good learning!

Kind regards,

Miss Bailey-Green

Miss Thompson

Mrs Knight

Mr Shoubber