



Term: Autumn 1 2020

Year Group: 4

Information for parents

"We come together at the start of a new school year. This year we come together in a new norm. We may be anxious and worried. We may be tentative and unsure. We may be just wanting to get back to doing what we do. Whatever we are feeling-today is a new start. A new day. A new beginning. And we come to this new start, this new day, this new beginning in the presence of God, our Loving Father"

(Taken from the Prayer of Blessing for the beginning the new school year; SM Staff Inset Day, September 2nd, 2020)

Dear Parents and carers,

We extend a huge welcome to all parents new and old as we begin the 2020/2021 academic year at St Mary's R.C. Primary School. We wish it was under different circumstances but unfortunately, this is the situation we find ourselves in. We hope that you managed to have a relatively relaxing summer, spending time with friends and family following the easing of Lockdown.

The staff are obviously delighted to be back doing the job they love but no doubt, there is some nervousness about the months ahead. It has been wonderful to see the school full again after having reduced numbers since March and very quickly children are adjusting their known routines and behaviours.

As we commence the new academic year, we are reminded of our Federation's Mission Statement, which is based on the parable of 'The Mustard Seed and Yeast' (Matthew 13.31)

"A man took a grain of mustard seed, and sowed it in his field. Indeed, the seed is smaller than all seeds but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches."

We feel that at the heart of this parable is the notion of 'growth', that wonderful things can come from the smallest or humblest of beginnings and that each and every one of our children have God given talents that require nurturing and celebrating. In turn, these gifts from God can inspire and motivate others to succeed and to reach their full potential.

Please support your child in their educational, emotional and spiritual growth by developing a 'Growth Mindset'. The 8 learning behaviours we focus on at school are:

- *Being curious (curiosity)
- *Having a go (perseverance)
- *Co-operating
- *Enjoying learning
- *Improving
- *Using your imagination (creativity)
- *Concentrating

	will learn about the stages of the water cycle, creating mini water worlds and an interactive water wheel to represent the different stages.	
Topic	Ancient Egypt We will learn about how and where the ancient Egyptians lived, what was important to the daily lives of ancient Egyptians, who Tutankhamun was and how mummies were made. The children will also learn about how Egyptian people used hieroglyphs to communicate and compare the powers of different gods	Encourage your child to read around the topic and watch tv programmes about the subject.
Computing	We will be creating a presentation using google slides.	We will be completing a presentation on the contribution of a famous living member of the African-Caribbean community and their contribution to life in Britain. Please encourage your child to explore the life of this person so they will be able to add more details each week. As a general skill, children should be familiar with the keyboard. Please encourage children to practise their typing skills by using the BBC Dance Mat http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr Although the tasks are quite easy they will need a lot of support to repeat the tasks so they are proficient.
PE	The sports this term are netball and tag rugby with children developing the key skills needed to play in each of these sports; passing and receiving the ball, good balance and footwork, attacking and defending skills.	To help your children at home, you can continue to practice the skills needed for netball and tag rugby , such as; throwing and catching using a variety of passes, chest, shoulder, bounce for netball and a two handed backwards pass for rugby..
Music	Our topic this half term will focus on the story of Treasure Island. The children will have opportunities to develop the following: Performing skills, Play tuned and untuned instruments with control and rhythmic accuracy Practise, rehearse and present performances with an awareness of the audience	Encourage your child to listen to different types of music, discussing what they like/ dislike about the piece.

-All teachers at St Mary's Primary School follow the homework policy.

In year 4 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spellings	Thursday	Monday	Practise daily – help your child to identify the tricky part of the spelling and focus on this part. Encourage your child to use the new words/spelling when talking and try to incorporate it in your vocabulary so they can practise using it and hear it in context. Discuss spellings in their reading books Revisit spellings with your child
Maths	Thursday	Monday	Revisit their number bonds regularly (addition and subtraction) to help with their fluency. Encourage your child to talk about what they have to do in their homework and how they will do it. Select a few of the questions and ask the children to explain how they got the answer. Encourage children to access hit the button, Mathematics and Times tables rock stars.
English	Thursday	Monday	Encourage your child to discuss what they are going to write first then write

			to the best of their ability. Read through their work and help them to edit for mistakes in spelling and punctuation. Support children when using dictionaries and thesaurus to improve their word choices.
Reading	Every day	Reading records returned daily	Children need to be reading every day. Listen to your child read and read to your child to develop their love of books. Ask children to summarise a section of what they have been reading, identifying the key points.

Owing to the Covid-19 epidemic and the need to social distance, unfortunately there will be no assemblies or nativities in the Autumn term.

PE is an essential part of the curriculum. We are lucky enough to have specialist teachers and coaches. Please send your child in wearing their PE kit on their PE day and they will wear it for the whole day. Any absences from PE need to be explained in a letter.

PE day for Year 4 is Tuesday.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Tuesday

There are no before and after clubs this half term (Autumn 1) as this would result in the mixing of 'bubbles'. This will be reviewed at half term.

School staff understand how difficult it is for parents not to be allowed on the premises or to have the chance to speak to their child's teacher. Class teachers are at the doors/gates at the start and end of the day and quick messages can be passed on then. However, if parents have an issue that needs greater time please email via the office using admin@st-marys-pri.wandsworth.sch.uk and the message will be forwarded to the relevant staff.

Kind regards,

Class Teachers

Miss Crowley & Mrs Payne