



Term: Autumn 1 2020

Year Group: 5

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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

**\*Not giving up (resilience)**

We very much look forward to an enjoyable and rewarding year ahead at St Mary's, working closely together with our wider school community, our parish and our partner school, Sacred Heart.

**-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>We are incorporating missed Year 4 content such as word classes and using dictionaries where necessary, to help the children catch up.</p> <p><b>Greek Myths:</b> We are using Greek myths (eg. Pandora's Box, King Midas, Perseus) to explore persuasive and narrative writing. We will continue to focus on punctuation and using adjectives to make our writing more interesting!</p>	<p>Read through your child's English homework and, as well as answering his or her questions, ask your child: <b>"Why have you written that?"</b> and: <b>"Can you make that more interesting?"</b> Also, read with your child and encourage them to read independently.</p>
Maths	<p>We have been helping children to revise their times tables and number facts as they settle back into maths lessons. We will be incorporating missed Year 4 content throughout the year where necessary.</p> <p><b>Place Value:</b> We will be focussing on reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers to at least 1,000,000. We will count forwards and backwards in steps of 10, 100, 1,000 from any number. We will be adding and subtracting mentally and multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100.</p>	<p>Assist with your child's homework! Please ask your child simple x tables questions all the time – eg: <b>"What is 7 x 8?"</b> Encourage the use of mathematical language eg: <b>"How many digits are there in the number 10,000?"</b> Encourage your child to use <b>Mathletics</b> – they know their logins and it makes maths fun!</p>
RE	<p><b>Ourselves and Life Choices:</b> What makes us unique, what do we like doing, what are our talents and qualities? What makes a good friendship? What are our responsibilities to our friends?</p>	<p>Pray every night with your child and encourage them to pray on their own. Encourage selfless prayer: asking God for forgiveness and asking God to guide and help their friends and friendships. Talk to your child about their day at school and discuss their friendships.</p>
Science	<p><b>Forces:</b> We will be looking at gravity, friction, air resistance and leverage. We will be working scientifically by: planning, measuring, recording, predicting, selecting evidence and reporting.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to research this topic – BBC bitesize has some excellent videos featuring Dick and Dom. Ask your child questions using scientific language, eg: "Can you predict how many blue vans will pass in the next 5 minutes? 10 minutes?"</p>
History/ Geography	<p><b>Ancient Greeks:</b> We have started our topic by examining artefacts and making inferences and predictions about them. Next, we will do some research to find out if we were correct.</p> <p>Later in the half-term, we will discuss many different aspects of Ancient Greece, including politics, the Olympic Games and architecture.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to research and read about the Greeks by using the internet and by choosing books from the library. Ask them questions that fire their imagination, such as "Would you have liked to have lived in Ancient Greece?" and the essential follow-up question: "Why?"</p>
Computing	<p>General IT skills will be incorporated into lessons such as English, Maths and Topic. We will be using iPads and computers to research and record our findings.</p> <p>In addition, we will have computing lessons in which we will learn how to produce a presentation about</p>	<p>You can download coding programmes such as 'scratch' for free at home! Encourage your child to play educational games, such as Mathletics, on computers or tablets.</p>

	Ancient Greece using Google Slides.	
PE	<b>Basketball &amp; Athletics:</b> They will be learning about the various aspects of basketball such as passing, dribbling and shooting. They will also be taught the scoring movements within basketball such as lay ups. They will also be doing athletics that will focus on long and short distance running through sprinting and interval running. They will also be doing agility activities.	To help your children at home, you can continue to practice the skills needed for basketball and athletics.
Music	We will be focusing on utilising the instrumental and note-reading skills learned in previous years and studying the elements of music.	Expose your child to a range of music: pop, rap, jazz, classical. Discuss harmony and rhythm.
Italian (KS2 only)	In Italian this half term, we will be focussing on the following: Greetings Introducing yourself Questions about personal and general information The weather The four Seasons Classroom language The Italian alphabet The Family Christmas in Italy	Encourage your child to share what they've been learning in Italian after their lessons on Fridays. Perhaps they can teach you some new words each week!

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

In year 5 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spellings	Fridays	Tuesdays	Test your child and ask them to use the words in sentences.
Maths	Fridays	Tuesdays	Check and assist if needed.
English	Fridays	Tuesdays	Check and assist if needed.
Reading	Children should be reading for at least twenty minutes every evening at home.		In Year Five, children are allowed to fill in their own Reading Records. However, we ask that you please listen to your child read and sign their Record at least once a week. Discuss books together to help them to grow in their love of reading.

**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 5 is Tuesday.**

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on a Monday evening.

**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](mailto:admin@st-marys-pri.wandsworth.sch.uk) and the message will be forwarded to the relevant staff.**

Kind regards,

Miss Bailey-Green (Class Teacher)

Mr Drinan (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs Knight (English Teacher)

Mr Shoubber (Maths Teacher)