



Term: Autumn 1 2020

Year Group: 6

### 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	We will be reading, 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. Children will write diary entries from the perspective of the children and adults from the book, newspaper reports and fact files. They will be using their knowledge of the Victorians in order to build an atmosphere. This half term we will continue to build up our understanding of different types of texts by answering comprehension questions.	All of these authors were writing in the Victorian period – so any opportunity to immerse in this history would be really useful.  Head to a Victorian-inspired museum: The Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch; or see how the poorest children of the past lived at the Ragged School Museum in Mile End.  Some good ideas here on how to get in to the Victorian spirit in London: <a href="https://theculturetrip.com/europe/united-kingdom/england/london/articles/how-to-experience-victorian-london/">https://theculturetrip.com/europe/united-kingdom/england/london/articles/how-to-experience-victorian-london/</a>
Maths	We are learning about place value and how we use the four operations. We will be using our knowledge to reason and problem solve so we have a very in-depth knowledge of it.	The children will start to receive daily homework to match their schoolwork, if necessary. Sometimes they may require support, or someone to talk with so that they can reason through the problems.
RE	We will explore 'loving' as a theme – parables such as The Prodigal Son and The Lost Sheep are good examples of God's unconditional love.	Reading or telling your favourite parables or stories about love would be a useful activity. Your love for your child is unconditional and we hope to showcase this on our class RE table. If you could find a picture that depicts your love for your family we would love if you would share a copy with us for the half-term.
Science	Our first topic in Science this year is 'Staying Alive'. We are going to take a journey around the human circulatory system; we will be discovering what factors affect our health such as exercise, diet and lifestyle.	There are plenty of child appropriate documentaries on Netflix, YouTube or BBC iPlayer which explore this topic. These may help the children to understand the wondrous human body!
History/ Geography	This half term we will be learning about the Victorians! We will travel back in time to explore different aspects of Victorian life and make comparisons to life today.	If possible, head to a Victorian inspired museum: The Geffre Museum in Shoreditch; or see how the poorest children of the past lived at the Ragged School Museum in Mile End.
Computing	This half term Year 6 will be using an app on the iPad called 'Pages' and 'iMovie'. They will be learning to use this app to create a presentation about our science topic: The Circulatory System and Our Bodies.	Please remind your child of safety when using the internet by monitoring their use of websites and discussing positive possibilities of the internet could help them to understand why this technology can be a double edged sword. Allow your child to present their homework using either power point or word processor to improve their confidence with using a computer. Go through the Acceptable Use Policy with your child and keep reminding them of good practise on devices.

PE	Children will be doing basketball & football this half term. 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 football this term where they will improve their passing, control and dribbling skills.	To help your children at home, you can continue to practice the skills needed for basketball and football, such as; throwing and catching.
Music	Year 6 pupils will be taking a general music class this half-term focusing on developing their aural skills and ability to differentiate timbre and structure and express this in correct technical language.	Talk to your child about what they have been learning in music. Encourage your child to listen to a range of music from all different artists and ages.
Italian (KS2 only)	Children will be learning: ways to greet each other; how to introduce yourself; ask questions about personal and general information; the weather; the four Seasons; classroom language; the family and daily routine	Talk to your child about what they are learning in Italian and encourage them to practise taught words and phrases to gain confidence.

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

In year 6 we will follow this homework timetable:

Subject	Handed out	Due in on	How you can help
Spellings	Friday	Tuesday	Children will have a set of 10- 15 spellings to learn over the week. Make sure your child is practising every day and that they are practising the words spelt correctly. Encourage your child to use words in sentences orally to ensure they understand the meaning of the words.
Maths (Mathletics – every day)			Reading questions and ensuring that they understand the questions. Ask your child to explain how they got the answer.
English			Support your child in the different aspects of English homework. - comprehension - grammar, punctuation and spelling tasks - writing
Handwriting			Make sure child practises forming letters correctly. Encourage your child to use joined up writing.
Reading			<b>Every day</b> – Children are expected to bring in their reading books with the diary every day and should be recorded and signed to acknowledge that they have read.

**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 days for Year 6 is Thursday.**

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

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 Liu

Mr Shoubber and Mrs Knight

Ms Webb