



## Information for Parents

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break. We hope that you and your family had a relaxing time.

Despite the recent stormy weather, Spring is definitely on its way! The Spring bulbs are out and the days are gradually becoming lighter.

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 at school and at home.

*'Lent is a special time when the Church invites everyone to examine their lives, to make Lenten promises and make a fresh start with God and with each other. It's a time to make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others.'*

**Please continue to develop positive learning behaviours at home and in school 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.

*Dear Lord Jesus,*

*Please help us to be good friends to our family, our neighbours and all who we meet through our words and actions.*

*Amen*

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
<b>English</b>	<p>This term we will be reading the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. This book explores many interesting themes which we will use as a stimulus for many genres of writing, such as non-chronological reports, letters and diary entries.</p> <p>We will continue to build stamina for writing and build on grammar, punctuation and spelling.</p> <p>In class, we will also build on reading comprehension skills: fact retrieval, inferencing, making predictions and analysing extracts of various texts. Children will continue to develop their written comprehension, answering with precision and detail where necessary.</p>	<p>You can support your child by listening to them read as much as possible and asking questions and supporting them when completing the weekly reading challenges.</p> <p>Encourage your child to apply writing devices, punctuation and grammar, taught at school, in their writing at home as well such as: figurative language, fronted adverbials, colons etc...</p> <p>In addition, when supporting your child with spellings, ask them to 'clap out the syllables' and remind them to apply spelling rules and phonics skills taught at school e.g. i/mmi/gra/tion – the /shn/ sound is spelt with 'tion'.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p>In maths, we will continue to consolidate previous work from the beginning of spring term. We will also be doing weekly arithmetic and reasoning practise.</p> <p>We will also be focusing on fractions, especially with the written methods and addressing any misconceptions. We feel it is important that children spend a little more time on fractions and consolidate what was taught during remote learning.</p> <p>We will also be revising written methods. This is an invaluable skill for all of maths. Children must have a strong grip of all operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) in order to progress in maths. We will be working on perfecting our skills and ironing out any misconceptions.</p> <p>We will also be doing weekly arithmetic and reasoning practise.</p>	<p>Please continue to support your child when they complete their weekly Mathletics and written homework.</p> <p>Practise times tables up to 12 with your child, so that they can confidently recall the answers within seconds.</p> <p>When completing the mini-arithmetic tests, allow your child to work as close to test conditions which will allow for better focus and accuracy when answering questions under time pressure.</p> <p>When cooking or making recipes, include your children in the preparation – ask them to cut things in to quarters, halves and possibly, eighths! Get them to help with ingredients and ratio.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p>In RE we will explore the Eucharist. The Eucharist challenges and enables the Christian family to live and grow in communion every day. The Eucharist helps us to find unity in our communities as Christians and we will discuss how the Eucharist can help us to find this unity. We will learn about and share in the importance of important worship such as The Communion Rite and the Our Father. Children will also be preparing for Lent and Easter. They will know and understand that loss and death bring about change for people. They will know and understand the Church's seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter; the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus led to new life.</p>	<p>Attend church events as often as possible and allowing them to witness different masses would give them some context to discuss Eucharist.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p>In science, children will be studying Electricity. This unit builds on from the Year 4 Electricity unit. Children will learn to represent circuits using</p>	<p>Ensure that your child understands how to use electricity safely.</p> <p><a href="https://www.learningcircuits.co.uk/">https://www.learningcircuits.co.uk/</a></p>

	<p>symbols in a diagram. They will learn about two of the most important scientific inventors in the field of electricity – Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. Children will get the opportunity to develop their understanding of what electricity is and how to measure it. As well as conducting their own investigation.</p>	<p>This website allows children to review all aspects of their learning on circuits, circuit diagrams and voltage.  <a href="https://www.rigb.org/our-history/michael-faraday">https://www.rigb.org/our-history/michael-faraday</a>  Children can explore Michael Faraday’s laboratory online, where he conducted many of his experiments.</p>
<b>Geography</b>	<p>This half term we will be studying North America. Children will be using maps to locate the continent, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities. Children will learn to identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).</p>	<p>Encourage your child to use maps to study location of different countries and the continents they belong to. Compare England to countries that children have connections with, e.g. cultures and climate. When using navigation apps, use the app to talk about your local area.</p>
<b>Computing</b>	<p>In Computing, children will be using their knowledge learnt in science to create a website. They will use pictures and type in information about their topic, ‘electricity’. Children will be learning to add hyperlinks to enhance their websites to interest and inform their audience better. We will then have a go at navigating each other’s websites.</p>	<p>iMovie is a free app on iPad, so you could create and edit your own videos at home. Ensure your child is filming safely and supervise when possible. Please continue to monitor what your child is doing on their devices. Ensure your child is using the internet safely, keeping information private. Children can use devices to support with homework and can present their homework electronically.</p>
<b>PE</b>	<p>This term, Year 6 will be doing Football. Key points for each lesson are to develop their passing, dribbling, close control, and the various techniques of shooting. This will help enhance their ability to apply teamwork skills and in 5v5/6v6/7v7 combination play. Within a match situation, they will work to gain an understanding of tactical awareness, communication skills and both attacking and defending principals. Self and peer reflection will also play an important part of assessment as this type of feedback will allow each student to understand how to learn, develop and succeed with each session.</p>	<p>Please encourage children to do some sort of physical activity every day after school. Practise football with them by using the skills such as dribbling or shooting in your garden or local park. To improve hand-eye coordination, you could play a game of catch. Going on short distance runs or walks with your child will help to improve overall stamina and endurance.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p>The children will continue to learn how to play the Glockenspiel. They will learn how to hold and play with precision and correct technique. We will be learning how to read music of the stave. The children will learn to play as an ensemble as well as perform individually and in small groups. Children will be learning varying pieces of music, from the classical piece ‘Ode to Joy’ by the composer Ludwig van Beethoven to pop song, ‘Old Town Road’.</p>	<p>The children’s instruments will stay in school. Please talk to your class teachers or Ms Watkins for advice on where to purchase one for home practise.  We encourage the children to listen to a variety of different music genres at home from Classical, Folk, Pop, Jazz, Musical Theatre, etc.</p>
<b>Italian (KS2 only)</b>	<p>In Italian, children will be learning about Italian culture: fashion, cars, food and landmarks. Children will also learn about the Carnival which occurs in Italy before lent. Children will also learn about famous Italians and their impact in their</p>	<p>Ask your child to teach you some of these words and phrases at home. Children are beginning to see how similar Italian is to other European languages, originating from Latin. You could research the meaning of words and phrases</p>

	country. They will then learn about Easter in Italian and their traditions and celebrations; which children can compare to traditions here.	taught in class e.g. 'luna' (meaning moon) and the English word, 'lunar' – which relates to the moon.
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All teachers at St Mary's R.C 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	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	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. Children will have a mini-arithmetic test sent every week which should be timed and completed in test conditions. The aim of this is so that the children can use their mental maths and written method skills, build up their stamina for answering quickly but with great accuracy.
English			Support your child in the different aspects of English homework. - comprehension: listen to them read and ask questions to check understanding - grammar, punctuation and spelling tasks - writing: support your child in completing this to a high standard using the year 6 features taught in school
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.		Read with them and correcting any mistakes and asking questions that support their comprehension of the book Children are expected to read <b>every day</b> . They should be reading at least 15 to 20 minutes each time.

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 6 are every Monday.

Please remember to remove your child's earrings on this day.

Kind regards,

Miss Liu

Mrs Knight and Mr Shoubber

Ms Jordan