



Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 6

Autumn 1st Half Term: Sept. 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to a new and exciting final year for your children at St. Mary's School. I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break. This is a very important year for your children, but with your help and support it will also be a very rewarding and memorable one.

Our Science topic this term will be 'The Nature Library', which involves learning about the classification of living organisms. The children will investigate the features of different plants, animals and micro-organisms and will be encouraged to use a range of scientific vocabulary. They will be set tasks that will help them develop their skills of observation and will require them to represent information and data in a range of ways, including creating their own classification keys.

In History, we will be finding out about the Maya, their empire and why it declined. We will begin this topic with a visit from The Freshwater Theatre Company who will be taking the children on a journey around the Mayan city-state of Palenque, where they will learn about the people, religion and culture of this ancient civilisation and consider what eventually led to its collapse. Details to follow.

Our English focus this half-term, is the book *The Eye of the Wolf* by Daniel Pennac, which I know the children are really going to enjoy. They will have the opportunity to explore the structure of the book and the author's use of language. Every week, the children will be given the chance to produce their own piece of writing based upon aspects and ideas from the book. In addition to this, we will continue with daily reading, comprehension activities, grammar and punctuation and consolidating spelling rules and patterns.

In Maths, our main focus will be on number work, including place-value of whole and decimal numbers; calculating using the four operations and securing number facts. In addition to this, we will be looking at fractions; expressing missing numbers algebraically; converting between units of measures and negative numbers. The children will also have a weekly arithmetic session to consolidate their knowledge of the formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimal numbers and fractions. It is really important that the children spend time learning their multiplication tables as these are key to much of the maths work that the children encounter every day. We have recently purchased Times Tables Rock Stars, an online resource which helps the children learn their times tables in a fun and interactive way. All children should have their log in details. Please let me know if your son/daughter hasn't received theirs.

On a practical note, it would be extremely helpful if the children have in school the things that they need to participate fully in every lesson. This means having a handwriting pen (not ball point/ biro) and essential stationery (pencils, coloured pencils, felt pens etc.) for class work, as well as full school PE kit for games (all named please). It would also be useful to have a notebook in school for taking notes during lessons. In addition, Year 6 will be swimming this half term and we have been advised by Church Farm Pool that all children (boys and girls) will need to wear a swimming hat. If you have any concerns, please feel free to come and see me.

Home learning for this term is as follows:

Daily reading for around 15 - 20 minutes each day

Tuesday: Maths (an activity/worksheet/RM easimaths/TT Rockstars) completed by Thursday.

Wednesday: English (comprehension/grammar/punctuation/writing task) completed by Friday.

Wednesday: Spelling list for a test the following Wednesday

There will also be the occasional Science/Topic task or research activity

Class teacher: Mrs. Susan Kelly

Date: September 2018