



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 3

Autumn 1st Half Term: September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to wish all of the children a very warm welcome back to school and into Year 3. We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and that children are looking forward to an exciting year ahead! One of the experiences we have this academic year is through an animal adoption using the World Wildlife Fund. We will learn about the work going into conservation of Jaguars in The Amazon which will link to our learning about Rio and South East Brazil in the summer term. We will be looking at our Welcome Pack together and receive WWF updates throughout the year.

Please refer to the table below, for a brief overview of the other learning experiences that the children will have in each subject, during this half term.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	Our focus texts this half term are George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl and The Wild Girl by Chris Wormell. We will be using these texts to learn about the Fab 4 reading strategies to: predict, question, clarify and summarise. We will also explore the characters and settings engaging in descriptive writing using adjectives and writing a recipe to use imperative verbs. We will finish by looking at narrative writing beginning to use speech marks. Spelling lists will be set weekly on Spelling shed and we will be continuing our spelling focus in lessons using the same words. The spellings are grouped according to spelling patterns which we will be looking at in class. Children should engage with Spelling Shed as part of their home learning, see below. We will be continuing to practise letter formation and begin to introduce cursive handwriting focusing on individual joins before using these in words.
Reading	We will be focusing on improving reading skills using the reciprocal reading strategies: predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising to support reading. Children will continue to benefit from reading practice and there will be opportunities for children to discuss books they have read. Children will continue to access reading books in school and should be bringing reading books to and from school each day. Children will be supported in changing their books weekly unless they need longer to complete an accelerated reader title. Children on accelerated reader will have opportunities to complete the quizzes on these books in school. Please continue to encourage children to read with you at home so they have the opportunity to use the fab four reciprocal reading strategies at home as well.
Maths	In Maths this half term we will be revising place value to 1000 and exploring the use of number facts in mental addition and subtraction. We will also start to use the written method of column addition and subtraction including exchange across 10 and 100.
Science	Our Science Topic this half term is about Rocks and Fossils. In this module, children will learn to: compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties; recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter; and describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock. We will also be learning

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	about Mary Anning and how she became a palaeontologist. We will be: making systematic and careful observations; recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, [bar charts] and tables; reporting on findings from enquiries; identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes; and using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support our findings.
Computing	In computing we will be focusing on online safety; including the use of passwords, how to ensure information is factual and the role of content ratings. Following this, we will be exploring the use of spreadsheets using the Purple Mash tools.
History	In history, this half term, we will be learning about the changes in Britain from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. We will place events on a timeline and examine evidence in order to make simple deductions about lifestyle during this time.
PHSCE	In PSHE we will begin the year by refreshing our learning about zones of regulation and strategies for managing uncomfortable emotions. We will go on by looking at how we all play a role in contributing to a positive learning environment where everyone can challenge themselves and learn. As part of this we will be looking at how our actions can affect others.
Art	We will be looking at the work of some artists including Lauren Child. We will be learning what animation is and how they can be made by sequencing drawings. We will be creating animated drawings, making paper puppets with moving parts, designing a background and then animating our puppets.
RE	This term in RE, we will be learning about the importance of 'Reconciliation'. We will be able to explain the meaning of reconciliation in terms of mending a broken relationship and understand that Christians learn about reconciliation through stories Jesus told such as the prodigal son.
Music	In Music this half term we will be taking part in the English National Opera's 'Finish this...' project. Children will have the opportunity to engage in the process of composing their own music, including developing ideas from a stimulus, exploring and creating sound, and finding different ways to record their work using a graphic score. We will finish the project with an opportunity to record our final collective piece for submission back to the ENO; so that it can be celebrated, as well as being displayed across the ENO platforms.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to be set on Google Classroom. It will consist of an English, Topic or Reading activity as well as a Maths related activity. It will be set on a **Friday** and needs to be completed and turned in by the following **Wednesday**. A photo can be taken of the learning and then uploaded and submitted to Google Classroom. In addition, there will be a list of weekly spellings on Spelling Shed which children should practice at least 3 times using the available games. The spelling list will update on a Monday. Children who wish to improve their spelling further can also access the Mastery Zone of spelling shed which will help them to identify and learn any spelling patterns they find trickier. In addition to these home learning tasks, we recommend that children also engage with TT Rockstars on a regular basis. Please let a member of the Year 3 team know, if you need any help accessing these platforms or need a reminder of login details.

Reading

One of the most important ways in which you can support your child's learning is to ensure that they engage with 10-15 minutes reading every day. It is really helpful if you can take some time to read with your child and discuss what they have read. Whilst reading, encourage your child to make predictions and ask questions about the text. Try to help them identify and clarify words or phrases that they are unsure about and encourage them to summarise a paragraph or page that they have just read. This will support them to write their four sentences in their reading record each week and help to support their developing comprehension skills. It is also beneficial to read aloud to your children.

P.E.

This year, our coached PE sessions will continue to be every **Friday**. The teacher led PE sessions this half-term will be on a **Monday**. On these days, children will need to **come in to school wearing their PE kit**. This should consist of their school PE t-shirt, jogging bottoms/PE shorts and trainers (not plimsolls, due to possible wet weather). Please also ensure that any long hair is tied back for all PE lessons.

What does my child need in school?

- As the weather is often unpredictable, please ensure your child is wearing layers as the classroom windows will remain open for ventilation throughout the year. Please bear this in mind as the weather starts to get colder. Children should bring a rainproof coat every day.
- **Named** school jumper/cardigan/coat
- Named water bottle (water fountains are still not in use)
- Children may use a small backpack or plastic bag if they'd like to bring anything in. Please make sure that this is not too big to avoid hazards in the cloakroom.
- Children can bring in school book bags if they have them.
- Your child will need a pencil case containing pencils, handwriting pen, small ruler, eraser, sharpener (one that holds sharpenings), colouring pencils, small glue stick. Please can you ensure this is able to **fit into their tray** as large pencil cases on desks make it difficult for children to concentrate on their work and can leave very little room for exercise books.
- Small packet of tissues, and we also ask for any donations of larger tissue boxes for the classroom.
- Please replenish handwriting pens, pencils and glue sticks as the term goes on.

Please name or distinguish any equipment brought from home. Children often have the same pens or felt tips and it is impossible to reunite lost articles with their owners if these are not named, which can cause distress.

If you have any questions, please contact the class team via the School Office email.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Haggan and the Year 3 team