



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 3

Spring 1st Half Term: January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you had a lovely Christmas break and wish you all a happy New Year. On behalf of the whole Year 3 team, we would like to thank you for your very kind and generous gifts, cards and good wishes.

We hope the children have had an enjoyable Christmas break and are looking forward to what we have planned for this half term. Please refer to the table below, for a brief overview of the learning experiences that the children will have in each subject, during this half term.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	<p>Our focus text this half term is Anthony Browne's 'Into the Forest'. We will be using this to help us focus on sentence structure, using conjunctions, adverbs, expanded noun phrases and prepositions to make our writing more detailed and interesting. Writing tasks linked to into the forest will include a setting description of the forest and a recount of the boy's adventure.</p> <p>We will be continuing our focus on improving cursive handwriting with regular handwriting sessions.</p> <p>Spellings will continue to be changed weekly on spelling shed and we will be continuing with spelling lessons around these spellings in class.</p>
Reading	<p>We will be focusing on improving reading skills using the reciprocal reading strategies: predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising to support reading. We will be practising reading comprehension skills in class in addition to continuing work on fluency in reading. 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 on a Tuesday 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.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths this half term, we will begin by multiplying and dividing 2 digit numbers by a 1 digit number before moving onto a unit on length and perimeter. We are going to introduce regular arithmetic practice which will consolidate the skills we are covering in Maths lessons. Using TT Rockstars at home, will further support their learning and understanding in Maths by supporting development of quick recall times-table facts.</p>
Science	<p>Our science topic this half term is 'Forces: Friction and magnets'. In this module, children will learn to: compare how things move on different surfaces, notice that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance. They will compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials.</p>

Computing	In computing we will be focusing on developing and practising the skill of touch typing. We will learn what is meant by the home, bottom and top row keys and how to use both hands to type.
History	Our History topic this half term is 'Henry VIII'. We will begin by placing the Tudors on a timeline and we will use various sources to determine what Henry VIII was like in both appearance and character. We will then find out about his six marriages.
PHSCE	In PSHE this half term we will be trialling a new resource called Difference. Through Difference, we hope to promote habits to encounter others well and navigate difficult situations. Each session will encourage children to be curious, be present and reimagine while exploring the key themes of Hope, Bravery and Hospitality. Central to the resources is the importance of creating a sense of belonging among pupils, their communities, and beyond. The key texts, Black Dog by Levi Pinfold and Tin Forest by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson, serve as a powerful tool to illustrate these themes.
Art	This half term, our topic is gestural drawing with charcoal. We will be looking at some of the work of Laura McKendry and Edgar Degas. We will learn that when we draw we can use expressive marks to create a sense of drama. We will explore how the use of light can make our drawings more dramatic.
RE	In R.E. we will be focussing our learning on Hinduism and thinking about the question: Why does a Hindu want to collect good karma? The children will learn that Hindus believe we collect good and bad karma through our actions which always have consequences. They will begin to describe what Hindus might learn from one of their stories about living the right way. They will also think about how Karma influenced Ghandi.
Music	In Music this half term we will be singing, playing and improvising short musical phrases and beginning to explore musical notation. We will share our thoughts and feelings about the music we are listening to and discuss what we think the music means.

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
- 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 **named** and 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