Care, Grow and Flourish
in God's Loving Hands

St Mary's C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs M. Constantinou BEd
Littlegrove, East Barnet, Herts EN4 8SR
t: 020 8449 5856
e: office@stmarysen4.barnetmail.net
www.stmarysen4-barnet.co.uk

Year 1 Half Term Curriculum Plan - Home Learning Letter

Autumn 2nd Half Term – November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable half-term break. We are delighted to welcome the children back and have lots of exciting activities planned for the coming weeks. Much of our learning this half term will centre upon our Science unit 'Senses' and around our Literacy texts 'The Black Book of Colours' and 'The Nativity'.

<table>
<tr><th>Subjects</th><th>Focus of Learning</th></tr>
<tr><td>English</td><td>For the first part of the half term, we will be exploring the book 'The Black Book of Colours' and use this as inspiration for writing poetry. For the second part of the half-term we will base our writing around the Nativity story. We will be identifying and sequencing the different events and hot seating different characters to explore how they might have felt. There will continue to be a focus on grammar and spelling (using their phonic knowledge of phase 2, 3 and phase 5 phonemes), writing high frequency words and using finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. We will introduce the use of adjectives to add information to a sentence and develop our use of simple descriptive language to make our sentences more interesting. There will continue to be a focus on handwriting and correct letter formation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Phonics</td><td>In Phonics lessons the children will begin by revising the phase two and phase three phonemes. They will then move on learning more of the phase five phonemes.
<table>
<tr><td>ay- play</td><td>ou – house</td><td>ie- pie</td><td>ea- each</td><td>oy- toy</td><td>ir – girl</td></tr>
<tr><td>ue- blue</td><td>aw- yawn</td><td>wh- whisk</td><td>ph- phone</td><td>ew - crew</td><td>oe – tiptoe</td></tr>
<tr><td>au - pause</td><td>ey - money</td><td>a_e- cake</td><td>e_e- compete</td><td>i _e - time</td><td>o_e - note</td></tr>
<tr><td>u_e – tune</td><td>c- city</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
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They will practice reading and spelling words containing these sounds.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Maths</td><td>In Maths we will be developing our understanding of place value, addition and subtraction. The children will continue adding and subtracting within 10. They will consolidate their knowledge of number bonds within 10 and will be extending their learning about fact families. They will use their knowledge of addition and subtraction to solve mathematical problems including word problems. Later in the term they will be exploring, naming and sorting 2D and 3D shapes.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Science</td><td>In Science, the children will be thinking about the Human body and in particular, the five senses. They will learn to classify different foods according to how they taste and smell and will use their sense of hearing to explore our school grounds. This Science unit will also involve planning and carrying out a simple investigation in which they will use their sense of touch to make observations.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Computing</td><td>In computing we will continue to use the online platform Purple Mash. The children will be given the opportunity to develop their keyboard and basic computing skills using creative tools. They will use the 2DIY tools to paint, create jigsaws and make simple drag and drop games. Through Purple Mash's 2BeSafe we will continue to think through how to be safe in a digital world. This half term we will be learning how to manage information online, recognising that not everything we see online is real and exploring what to do if we see something that makes us uncomfortable or sad.</td></tr>
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Design and Technology	This half term the children will be set the task of designing and making a fruit salad. They will find out about important hygiene and safety measures that people need to follow when preparing food. When making the salad, they will practise peeling and chopping fruit. Once they have made their fruit salad they will carry out a simple evaluation and try to think of ways in which their product could be improved.
History	Our History topic this term is 'Toys Past and Present' We will find out about toys that our parents and grandparents played with, explore how toys have changed over time and learn how to identify toys that are old or new.
PHSCE	Our focus this half term will be on Celebrating difference. The children will learn that everyone is different and reflect on the importance of respecting and valuing these differences. As part of this unit the children will focus on how we can ensure that everyone is included in our class and we will think about the importance of using kind words.
RE	In R.E. we will be learning more about the Christian Festival of Christmas. We discover more about how Christians celebrate this festival and why it is important to them. We will looking at what the bible has to say about Jesus' birth and exploring the big question 'Why was Jesus given the name Saviour?'
PE	In P.E. our focus will be on improving our ball skills. We will be working on developing our dribbling skills and explore different ways of accurately passing a ball to a partner. We will also explore how to play competitive games well including the importance of following instructions, keeping accurate scores, taking turns and playing fairly.
Music	In Music the children will focus on learning the songs for our Christmas Production. This will involve them learning a number of different lyrics and singing simple melodies as part of a group. They will also think about the way in which they perform these songs.

Home Learning

Home learning will typically consist of a weekly Maths activity and an assignment on Ed Shed. We will continue to set the tasks on Google Classroom on **Friday** and they will need to be completed and turned in by the following **Wednesday.** A photograph can be taken of the learning and then uploaded and submitted to Google Classroom.

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. This can consist of hearing them read their school reading book or sharing books that you have at home. Each week children will take home a school reading book which they need to practise reading at least four times during the week. Children will also be given a paper reading record which needs to be sent into school every day with their reading book. We ask that you make a brief comment about your child's reading at least once a week in this book.

P.E.

Year 1 PE sessions will continue to take place every **Tuesday and Friday**. The children should come to school wearing their PE kit on these days. PE kits should consist of navy blue jogging bottoms or shorts, a white T-shirt or polo shirt, and trainers (not plimsolls, due to possible wet weather). Please ensure that long hair is tied back.

Items that need to be in school every day:

- Named school jumper/cardigan/coat
- Named water bottle
- Folder containing reading book and paper reading record book (provided by school)
- Children won't need a large school bag. They can bring in a small rucksack or a school book bag if they have one.

We are very much looking forward to working with you over the course of the next academic year. If you have any questions, please contact the class team via the School Office email.

Many thanks for your support,

Caroline Goringe and the Year 1 team