



English Martyrs Primary School  
St Mark Street  
London  
E1 8DJ  
020 7709 0182  
Head Teacher Miss Nugent

“We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together in search of excellence, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.”

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I offer you a warm and very special welcome to your child’s final year at English Martyrs. After a tumultuous period in all our lives, especially in our children’s, I offer you my reassurance that the Year 6 Team and I will take every opportunity to nurture and nourish your child back into the school routine. We will endeavour to boost their confidence, self-esteem and academic progress to ensure they are back on track and well prepared for the next phase of their journey at secondary school.

I thought it would be interesting to share the following with you as an interesting viewpoint but also to know that our children will surely find their path in life despite the disruptions and challenges they will face. In a letter to his parents, a Head teacher at an unnamed school urged his parents to worry less. He reminded them that amongst them, there is a future artist, who doesn’t need to understand maths. There is an entrepreneur, who doesn’t care about history or literature. There is a musician, whose chemistry marks won’t matter. There is an athlete, whose physical fitness is more important than physics. Regardless of our pupils’ talents, at English Martyrs, we believe that our children are cut out for big things in life. With love and encouragement and without judgment, let us all observe them gradually make their mark in the world.

The week has seen Year 6 settle into their new classroom and lessons with an encouraging start. I have enjoyed getting to know your child. In the forthcoming year, I hope to deliver an exciting, creative and challenging curriculum that will consolidate all the learning that has taken place in Key Stage 2.

My teaching approach is very holistic. For me, learning is not only about the acquisition of facts and good grades. All knowledge gained should have some purpose and application in the real world. Creativity is necessary for innovation, inspiration drives motivation and positivity promotes productivity. Emotional health is also of paramount importance which I believe to be a priority for success in all facets of life: I will deliver a final year based on these fundamental principles so that your child is not only prepared for secondary school, but for their whole life. Please join me in prayer:

*“Lord, Our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to You, the source of all knowledge. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

## Reading

Your child is well versed about the importance of reading and its subsequent effects upon developing vocabulary, sentence structures, composition and effect. Kindly ensure that your child reads each evening and writes their thoughts about the book in the Reading Record on a regular basis. Also encourage your child to use their record book to note new words and make use of the information found in the central pages.

I request you to oversee the record book by adding your own comments and signature at least once a week. As you know, it is essential that your child reads a wide range of genres (including newspapers) and develops a good reading habit to support their weekly comprehension exercise. Recent years have seen a shift and emphasis on vocabulary of a very mature level. It is therefore, crucial that your child develops a wide and sophisticated range of vocabulary to attain that deeper level of connection to the text.

Even though your child is in Year 6, it is still a very rewarding experience for them to be heard reading. In particular, discussing inferences within the text will help develop an essential skill required across the curriculum. I include a sheet with the types of questions you could ask your child when you hear them read.

## Autumn term homework

Homework is not designed to create stress at home. Success is very much a team effort. Your full support is important to me. Work completed at home is a significant feature of Year 6. It plays a key role in reinforcing the learning which takes place in class, as well as preparing your child for secondary school. Below is an outline of the work commitment your child is expected to fulfil.

During the Autumn term, pupils will be given several pieces of homework in the week. Please ensure your child completes this work as it will be closely linked to the lessons I teach. Homework should not take longer than 30 minutes to complete.

### The timetable for homework is as follows:

Monday - English to be handed in on Wednesday

Wednesday- Maths to be handed in on Friday

Thursday - Comprehension to be handed in the following Tuesday

Friday - Mathletics and Spellings for the following Friday. Some weeks there will be additional science or history homework to be handed in on Monday.

Please note R.E homework will be set once every half term. There will also be a History project set for half term.

## Spellings

Weekly spellings will be given to your child. In order to provide some context and meaning for spellings, pupils must write sentences demonstrating the definition of the words. For a more challenging activity, pupils could write a creative paragraph using all the words in their spelling list. This must be done weekly. A test and new words will be given every Friday.

## Mathletics

This continues to be an important resource which your child should use to embed their learning in maths. Your child must try all the activities and games as they will be based on the same topics being taught in class. Mathletics is a useful way for you to keep track of what we are learning as well as your child's progress.

## Online safety

As part of safeguarding our pupils, online safety is a priority. All gadgets including mobile phones, tablets and iPads must have the relevant parental controls on them in order to prevent access to inappropriate material. If your child is exposed to any harmful material, it will impact their welfare. If you are unsure about how to install these, our technician can be made available to install them. Please let the office know, who will arrange this for you.

Please ensure that your child is only using age-appropriate forms of social media. The age restrictions are in place to protect them and maintain their wellbeing. WhatsApp's minimum age of use is 16 years old. WhatsApp group chats have caused upset and hurt in the past. I urge you to restrict your child's use of this form of communication. Parents, please also be mindful of what you write on WhatsApp regarding other children. We all have a duty of care to all the children of the school.

Keep watch of your child's screen time. It is up to us to help children balance their onscreen time and adopt a healthy digital diet. Too much time can have a negative impact on their wellbeing. You can visit [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) for more detailed age-relevant guidelines.

The online game Fortnite is not suitable for children under the age of 12 years due to its frequent scenes of violence. Its highly addictive nature is also a cause for concern. For further information on this, visit [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## Emotional well-being

Continuing with our safeguarding responsibilities, our duty of care extends to your child's mental health. Your child will learn that mental health is as important as physical health and understand there is a normal range of emotions that all humans experience in relation to different situations. They will try to recognise how to talk about their emotions and acquire the associated vocabulary.

## Autumn Term Topics in Core Subjects

I provide you with a listing of the topics to be covered this Autumn term as well as a topic overview. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment at the office, if you wish to speak to me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pasha