



English Martyrs Catholic Primary School
St. Mark Street
London E1 EDJ
Tel: 020 7709 0182

15th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to English Martyrs Reception class. We are very pleased with how well the children are settling into our classroom routines. A very warm welcome also to the new children and their families who are new to our school community this year - we are delighted that you have joined us! They are actively forming friendships and enthusiastically taking part in the daily life of our school community.

This half term the children's English topic will be *Marvellous Me!* We will explore this through talk and listening; sharing what makes us different and special, shared reading, role-playing and creative arts as well as beginning to write some words and phrases as the children learn to access new letter sounds through our daily phonics sessions.

We love to celebrate your child's marvellous moments captured at school and at home. I will enclose a WOW star with this letter for you to decorate with your child to mark a special achievement. These are a fantastic way to link home and school learning and celebrate them together.

Our RE topic is 'God's World.' This focuses on the creation of our beautiful earth, and God's love for each one of us. You can support children at home by helping them to make the sign of the cross and by praying at home as a family. We will be sending copies of the school's daily prayers to learn too.

I will be starting to send phonetically decodable reading books home from our phonics-linked reading schemes. These books are specially designed around how we teach Phonics. We will start the children off with lilac level books containing pictures to describe and tell a story; these books are designed to encourage language development and narratives. Please write a comment in the accompanying yellow reading record, including details such as whether your child enjoyed the book, which letter sounds or words they recognised or found challenging. We read with every child twice a week and will be also sending sets of high-frequency words home to learn to read and write.

On Fridays the children can choose a book to take home from our classroom library. Please ensure that these are returned each Friday to be exchanged for new ones. We have a selection of fiction and non-fiction books in the classroom and children can choose based on their own interests.

Thank you for the support you give in developing language and vocabulary by speaking and reading to your children. Please continue to talk to your child constantly, encouraging them to use new words and develop their sense of wonder.

Thank you for your brilliant support,

Miss Cutts