



English Martyrs Primary School
St Mark Street
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15th September 2023

Dear parents,

I would like to welcome you all to Year 2. I am looking forward to teaching the class and will ensure that this year is full of opportunities for your child to develop. I will be teaching through an exciting topic-based curriculum, which should stimulate discussion and questioning at home and school.

Religion

For Religious Education we use the scheme 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'. This term, children will be learning about Chosen People and how we are all special. We will hear the stories of Moses, Abraham and Daniel and respond to these through Scripture.

Writing

We will be exploring stories with familiar settings, identifying characters, settings, and story language used by the author. As part of our topic the children will write stories, letters, reports and character descriptions,

There will be a big focus on vocabulary and grammar when speaking, reading and writing. We will be looking at the four different sentence types: command, exclamation, statement and question. We will use interesting vocabulary to make our writing more exciting for the reader.

This term we will continue to follow our phonics programme. The children will also investigate and learn strategies to help with spelling. Children will learn to spell the common exception words for Year 2 and revise the Year 1 spelling list.

Reading

Reading is very important. Children only become good readers by reading daily and being read to.

Your child will continue to read high level texts and will be heard read by a member of staff at least once a week. The children will also get the opportunity to engage in a Guided Reading group once a week. In this session the teacher leads the children in reading, discussion, questions and answers. This is a great opportunity to discuss higher level reading skills. **We encourage pupils to read at home every night, preferably to an adult. Please sign, date and write a comment in the reading record. Please ensure that your child has his/her reading book and reading record in school every day.** Children will also take a book of their choice from our class library, this is to develop their reading skills and also develop a love of reading.

Topic

Our topic this term is 'Into the Forest' the curriculum map is attached to this letter. During the term we will be looking at Microhabitats in our school grounds, finding green spaces in our local area and looking at the artists Andy Goldsworthy and Georgia O'Keeffe. Please take a look at the curriculum map to give you an idea of our learning so that you can support your child at home.

Maths

This half term we will be studying different concepts and problem solving through:

- Number and place value
- Addition and subtraction
- Shape

Regular mental arithmetic tests will be given.

Pupils are expected to learn

- Number bonds to 10, 20 & 100.
- Multiplication tables and related division facts (x2, x5, x10, x3)

By the end of Year 2 children are expected to know and apply 2, 5, 10 & 3 times tables.

RHSE

This term the children will be looking at 'Me, my body and myself'. We will be discussing how we are unique and how to keep clean and healthy.

PE

PE is a very important part of our curriculum; children not only learn skills but also the link between exercise and a healthy lifestyle. The children should bring their PE kit to school on a Tuesday and Thursday - navy shorts, a white t-shirt, socks and black trainers, during the colder month's children should wear navy tracksuit, white t-shirt and black trainers (no logos should be visible)

Homework

All homework will be given out on a Friday and collected the following Wednesday.

Maths this year, we will be trialling maths homework books in place of Mathletics. Our maths coordinator will monitor the impact of this very closely as we aim to encourage reducing children's screen time. Your child will receive a workbook to take home with clear instructions of the pages to complete. This work will correspond closely with the topic being studied in class. Please do not exceed the pages requested to complete, as this is the year's homework book.

English- Spellings will consist of up to ten spellings from the phonics this week and the Y1/2 common exception word list

Reading comprehension -A reading comprehension booklet with clear instructions on the pages to complete. Please do not exceed the pages requested to complete, as this is the year's homework book.

Religion will also be part of our homework.

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. Please ensure that your child is only using age-appropriate forms of social media and gaming. The age restrictions are in place to protect them and maintain their wellbeing.

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 for more detailed age-relevant guidelines.

For further information on this, visit www.saferinternet.org.uk

Important Information

Please make sure your child has a water bottle - the drinking fountain has been converted so that it can refill water bottles. Please can you also make sure that all your child's clothes are labelled with their name and year group.

Ways to help your child

- Please ensure that your child is in school by 8:50am each day ready to start lessons at 9:00am.
- Hear your child read daily and write a comment in their reading record books.
- Talk to your child about his / her school day
- Ensure that your child learns his/her spellings
- Ensure all homework is carefully completed and handed in on time
- Teach your child the time and the concept of money.

Parents, I am delighted to be teaching your child this year and I hope it will be a very happy and successful year for all of us.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any concerns about your child's learning. I will be very happy to meet with you and by working together we can do the best for your child.

Ms Paterson