



English Martyrs Primary School
St Mark Street
London
E1 8DJ
020 7709 0182
www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you all to Year 5. It has been a strange year and there are, as you are all aware, challenges ahead. However, I am excited to teach the class and am sure that this year will be full of opportunities for your child to develop in maturity and independence. Making sure your child progresses through the curriculum whilst also maintaining steady emotional wellbeing is very important and this will be a focus through the Autumn term. I will be teaching through an exciting topic-based curriculum, which should stimulate discussion and questioning at home and school. Any gaps in learning will be addressed through recap sessions which will be at the beginning of new learning and discrete lessons where necessary. Key skills that have been missed will be taught through the new topics.

Important Information

Please make sure your child has a water bottle – the drinking fountain is out of action.
Please make sure that you keep your child at home if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid19.
This will lessen the likelihood of spreading the virus to the rest of the class.

Communication

We will endeavour to update our class learning page as often as possible so that parents can see what is happening in class. Please also use the text service for general enquiries and I can answer you. For more complex questions please request a phone call via text or the office and I will phone as soon as I can.

Homework

I will give homework that deepens or consolidates learning from our lessons in school.

Reading and Comprehension

Children will be given a **comprehension** homework booklet that they will need to bring into school on **Thursdays** so that we can discuss answers in comprehension lessons together. **Miss Freeman's group need to bring theirs in on the following Wednesday.**

Please ensure your child reads each evening and writes any thoughts about their book as well as any unfamiliar words in their Reading Record regularly. Please support us by adding your comments and

signature at least once a week. We have a list of key books that should be read before the end of Year 5 and your child will be encouraged to read these books at home. We also carefully choose our class novel to allow as much development of reading skills as possible.

Maths

Children will continue their Mathletics work. They will receive a login and password. Please let me know if you have difficulty accessing the program. I will set several tasks each week and check they have been completed every Friday.

Spellings

Spellings will be set on **Friday** by Miss Freeman, children will be asked to write extended, imaginative sentences from five of their spellings and also to find definitions of words. They will be tested on their spellings on **Friday**.

RE

Children will be given regular RE homework – such as learning specific prayers or hymns, research or written work. This is a very important part of your child's education and your support is much appreciated.

Other Homework

Sometimes children will be asked to develop a project at home as well as completing their regularly set homework. We will be using Google classroom this term and will assign some tasks for the children to practise. Let me know if there are any problems.

If your child finds any of the homework too difficult please make sure you see me as soon as possible.

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. The age restrictions are in place to protect them and maintain their wellbeing.

As of May 2018, WhatsApp's minimum age of use is 16 years old. WhatsApp group chats in particular have caused upset and hurt. 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. Refrain from negatively mentioning anyone's name, particularly if it's a child you may be discussing. 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 for more detailed age-relevant guidelines.

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

PE

PE Kits should be worn into school on the day of their lesson and the children can wear them all day. PE kit consists of white t shirt, navy shorts socks and plain trainers. In the colder months, navy

tracksuits can be worn for outside activities (but please still remember to pack shorts just in case the lesson is indoors.)

This term, Smokie will be coaching the children on **Friday**.

Chess

We will have a Chess Tutor (Mr Costello) on Friday afternoons for 1 hour. Mr Costello will teach the children various chess strategies – chess is an excellent game to learn - promoting logic, patience and self-discipline.

I am very much looking forward to teaching the children this year and pray there are no interruptions to our learning! If you have any concerns about your child please let me know as soon as possible

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Moore