



English Martyrs Primary School
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Monday 11th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you all to Year 5. I am looking forward to teaching the class and will ensure that this year is 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 continue to be a focus in our school. I will be teaching an exciting topic-based curriculum, which should stimulate discussion and questioning at home and school. Miss Freeman will provide support lessons in Maths and Comprehension. Miss Freeman will also be leading the Spelling lessons this year and co-ordinating Nesy and Maths Seeds interventions. Miss McInroy will also be available to provide support in Maths lessons.

Important Information

Please make sure your child has a water bottle.

Communication

We will endeavour to update the school blog weekly, so that parents can see what is happening in class. One of the Year 5 team will be at the gate in the morning or afternoon if you have any questions, however you can also use the text service for general enquiries and one of the Year 5 team will contact you. For more complex questions please request a phone call or meeting via text or at the office.

Homework

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

Timetable for homework will include:

Reading and Comprehension

Comprehension

Mrs Moore and Miss Freeman will be setting comprehension homework. Children will be given a **comprehension** homework booklet that they will need to bring into school on **Wednesdays** so that we can discuss answers in comprehension lessons together.

Reading

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. If your child is not reading fluently please hear them read daily.

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. Upper KS2 may occasionally receive additional homework.

Spellings

Spellings will be set on **Monday** 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 **Monday**.

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 you have technical difficulties.

If your child finds any of the homework too hard, 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

We are adding an extra PE session to our timetable this year. It is therefore more practical if PE Kits are brought into school on Monday and then returned home on Thursday. 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 (with shorts underneath in case the lesson is indoors.)

This term, PE will be on Tuesday and Thursday. We will also be participating in the Daily Mile which will be 2/3 x a week. The children will run for up to 15 minutes - this will improve their fitness and stamina. They do not need to wear special kit or shoes for this activity.

Chess

We will have a Chess Tutor (Mr Costello) on Friday afternoons for 50 minutes. Mr Costello will teach the children various chess strategies - chess is an excellent game to learn - promoting logic, patience and self-discipline.

Year 5 is a lovely class to teach, but the expectations for this year group are high. Your child may find it difficult at first, if you have any concerns about your child's learning or well-being please let me know as soon as possible

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Moore