



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.”

Thursday 14th September 2023

Dear Parents,

It gives me tremendous pleasure to offer you a warm and special welcome to the new term and your child's final academic year at English Martyrs. Year 6 promises to be an exciting and challenging year in which your child will start preparing for life in secondary school and reinforce all their talents to enable them to go out into the world and shine.

Last week saw the children settle into their new classroom and routine with an encouraging start. Mrs Moore's commitment is clearly evident as your children strive to achieve high standards and possess a strong work ethic. I will continue with her work and expect to see all our children leave English Martyrs fully prepared in their spiritual, emotional and academic journey.

To achieve this, I hope to work together with you by keeping our communication frequent. Workload will consist of a fair but rigorous programme in which your child will be expected to read everyday and complete all their homework.

Working as a team, we must ensure Year 6 is successful so that we harness a love for learning and that our children are confident and positive about the next phase of their journey.

Please join me in prayer in asking for the Lord's blessing to make this happen and bring out the best in our children:

“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.”

The following is additional information regarding Year 6 this term:

Reading

Year 6 will continue to hear the message about the importance of reading and its subsequent impact on growing a sophisticated vocabulary, developing a wide range of sentence structures and acquisition of knowledge. Kindly ensure that your child reads each evening for approximately 30 minutes at least. Reading records have been replaced by homework diaries so your child only needs to record the page numbers they have read. At the end of the book, your child will complete a book review about their thoughts and feelings. Also encourage your child to use their diary to note new words.

SATs Comprehension paper

It is essential that your child reads a wide range of genres (including newspapers) and develops a good reading habit to enhance their comprehension skills. There is a significant shift in the emphasis on challenging vocabulary in the comprehension paper. It is therefore crucial that your child develops a wide ranging and sophisticated word bank to access the paper. Children also need to be able to make inferences based on evidence rather than simply being able to retrieve the information. This skill will be accelerated through the daily reading of books of the right standard. 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 and forming opinions will help develop an essential skill required across the curriculum. I attach a sheet with the types of questions you could ask your child when you hear them read.

Autumn Term Homework and Homework Diaries

Homework is not designed to create stress at home. Success is very much a team effort. Your full support is vital. 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 this half term. This timetable will change every half term. Please be mindful of this.

We have invested in homework diaries to help embed the practice needed for Year 7 and offer our children a head start. Please remind your child to take care of their diary and not lose it. Please ensure your child completes their work and signs it off. If your child is having trouble completing the homework, please do not hesitate to speak to me about it. Homework will be given in both paper format and through Google Classroom.

The timetable for homework is as follows:

Monday - Paper based Maths to be handed in on Wednesday

Thursday - Comprehension to be handed in the following Wednesday

Friday - Mathletics and spellings due the following Friday. There will be an additional weekend piece to complete which will be due 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 every Friday. 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. The test and new words will be given every Friday.

Mathletics

This is an important resource which your child must use to embed their learning in maths. I will set tasks every Friday and they will have one week to complete them. Your child must take every opportunity to try all the activities and games based on the topics we are currently studying. Completing this work will embed the learning which takes place in class. This is also a helpful way of keeping track of what we are learning as well as knowing your child's progress. They will be expected to complete work in their lunch time if tasks are not up to date.

P.E

P.E will be every Tuesday and an additional day. Your child should bring their P.E kit to school every Monday and take it home on Friday. Please ensure your child has navy blue shorts and a plain white T shirt. They will also require navy blue or black jogging bottoms for when the weather is colder.

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 how to install these, support at school will be 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.

As of May 2018, WhatsApp's minimum age of use is 16 years old. WhatsApp group chats in particular have caused upset and hurt in the past. I urge you to restrict your child's use of this form of communication.

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.

www.saferinternet.org.uk provides excellent advice and up-to-date resources to support your child in using the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

Please maintain a constant dialogue with your child about their online life, reminding them to talk to you if they come across inappropriate material or might be communicating with someone suspicious and to report it.

Autumn Term Topics in Core Subjects

I provide you with a list of the topics to be covered this Autumn term. Please see attached sheet.

Finally, I very much look forward to meeting you for parents' evening on Tuesday 18th October.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pasha