



English Martyrs Primary School
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Head Teacher Miss Nugent

Mission statement: *"We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together in search of excellence, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus."*

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear Parents,

I offer you a warm and special welcome to your child's final academic year at English Martyrs. Year 6 promises to be an exciting and challenging year in which your child will prepare for life in secondary school and realise their talents to enable them to go out into the world and shine.

This week the children have settled into their new classroom and routine with an encouraging start. I have enjoyed getting to know them and witnessing the hard work Mrs Moore has clearly invested. It is also evident that you have conversed with your children about the high expectations we all have of them. As a result, Year 6 is already demonstrating signs of maturity. In the forthcoming academic year, I hope to continue delivering a creative and dynamic curriculum that will consolidate all the learning that has taken place in Key Stage 2. I will try my best to ensure your child reaches their potential to make the best possible start for their new school.

In order to achieve this, we must work together in training your child for what will be expected of them in Year 7. This will consist of a fair but rigorous programme in which your child will be expected to read every day and complete all their homework. There will be consequences for children who do not fulfil this expectation.

We have invested in reading records which incorporate homework pages. This is to introduce and embed the practice of recording homework and due dates. At English Martyrs, we always endeavour to offer our children a head start. Please remind your child to take care of their diary and not lose it. It is important that Year 6 is successful for your child so that we harness a love for learning and that our children are confident about the next phase of their journey. I will both need and appreciate all your support.

Please join me in prayer to enable us all to work as a team to make this happen and bring out the best in your 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

Your child is well versed about the importance of reading and its subsequent effects upon developing vocabulary, sentence structures and composition. Kindly ensure that your child reads **each** evening and writes their thoughts about the book in the Reading Record/Homework Diary on a regular basis. Also encourage your child to use their record book to note new words. I request you to oversee the record book by adding your own comments and signature at least once a week. You can also use the Homework Diary to communicate any concerns to me which I will respond to.

As you know, it is essential that your child reads a wide range of genres (including newspapers) and develops a good reading habit to support their weekly comprehension exercise. 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 within the text 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

Homework is not designed to create stress at home. Success is very much a team effort. Your full support is important to me. 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.

During the Autumn term, pupils will be given several pieces of homework in the week. Please ensure your child completes this work as it is closely linked to the lessons I will be teaching. 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 - Mathematics due the following Friday and homework in an additional subject 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.

P.E

P.E will be every Tuesday. Your child should come to school in their P.E kit. 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.

Knowledge Organisers

This year, we will be introducing knowledge organisers at the beginning of all our topic work. These are information sheets which highlight key vocabulary and knowledge your child must learn. Children will have a copy in their books. You will find these on the Year 6 class page on our website.

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. 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