

September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you have all had an enjoyable and restful summer holidays and we are extremely pleased to welcome the children back into their new classes for the start of what is sure to be another fantastic year at St Mary's.

The staff are all very excited about the topics which the children will be learning about this term and throughout the year. We hope that the children will share our excitement and enthusiasm!

We start with our Heroes and Monsters topic which will incorporate Anglo Saxon Britain (Term 1) and the Vikings in Britain (Term 2).

We have attached a topic web to this letter which shows what we will be doing in the various curriculum areas over the first term (a second web for the Vikings in Britain will follow at the start of the second term). The topic web is an overview of the areas we may cover. We may discover that we learn about different areas depending on the children's interests.

We welcome a new face to the year 5/6 staff this year; Mr Meadows. Here is a list of who will be working in each class and on which days they will be working:

Oak: Mrs Cartledge and Mrs Weston (every morning)

Ash: Mrs Wheeler (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Danton (Wednesday to Friday) Mrs Rudge (every morning)

Elm: Mr Meadows (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and Mrs Wheeler (Wednesday) Mrs Lee (every morning in Elm class).

This is a very exciting term for our year 6 children as they head off to Morfa Bay for an adrenaline-filled week of action and adventure. During this week, the year 5 children will have an excellent opportunity to participate in a STEM workshop in school. We also intend to have further experiences throughout terms 1 and 2 to link to our Heroes and Monsters topic which we will send details of, nearer the time.

As it is the start of a new academic year and half of the children are new to the year group, it is the perfect opportunity to remind you of or introduce you to some of the expectations we have in year 5/6.

Homework

Maths: This continues to be set on Mathletics each week. Children should also be practising their multiplication tables as these are vital to their learning across the maths curriculum.

Topic: Homework linked to our topic will be sent home at the start of the term and should be completed and returned by the end of the term. Further instructions and details can be found on the homework sheet, itself. Homework should always be completed in the exercise book provided and should be completed to a high standard.

Please ensure that, if children are completing a research based homework, they do not simply copy and paste what they have found out from the internet. They should be putting any research into their own words.

Reading: We cannot over emphasise the importance of reading both in and out of school. It is, therefore, vital that the children read daily and answer questions about the text they have read. Every child should know which band of books they should be selecting from class libraries or the Den and they should be bringing their reading book and reading record home every day. Please encourage them to do this. As well as hearing your child read, please take time to enjoy a book together.

Spelling: We use a range of strategies in order to develop your child's spelling skills. Whilst spelling is regularly taught as an integral part of literacy the children also receive a spelling list at the start of each term. These lists are made up of words from the word lists provided in the new National Curriculum and words linked to the weekly spelling pattern. The children will be tested on these spellings each week, so it is important that they practise them throughout the week. They should also make sure that, as well as being able to spell each word, they can understand the word in context, which may mean using a dictionary to define it and using it in sentences.

P.E : Your child will need their full P.E kit (clearly labelled with their name) in school every day. It is important they have the appropriate kit; polo shirt or t-shirt (white), shorts (dark blue or black), tracksuit or sweatshirt and jogging bottoms and trainers as well as their indoor daps. Please ensure that all of the kit fits your child comfortably, especially footwear, as it can have a big impact on performance if children are wearing the wrong-sized kit. We will be outside in all weathers, unless extreme. It is important that children are well prepared for cold and wet weather. This will include having appropriate footwear for wet and potentially muddy conditions and a bag to put any wet and dirty clothes in.

Art/DT: We would like the children to bring in an old shirt (preferably a large adult one) they can use to cover up their school clothes with when we do art and design work. This will ensure that their school clothes remain clean and tidy even when the children have been painting and using other potentially messy materials! In the classroom

Your child needs to have their reading book and reading record in school every day. Children also need a labelled water bottle so they can have a drink on hand in class.

Grab a Grown Up: We are really pleased to be inviting everyone in to school every other Tuesday morning (8.40 to 8.50am). More details can be found in this week's newsletter.

We would also appreciate it if, having looked at the topic web, you feel that you have any expertise or interests to share with us, that you contact your child's teacher to offer any support you can give us during the school day.

A final note: Please feel free to approach your child's teacher to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or well-being.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Meadows, Mrs R Cartledge, Mrs Wheeler and Mrs R Danton.