

September 2022
Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new school year. We are thrilled with how well the children are already settling into their classes, and we are looking forward to a super year of learning. This letter contains useful information for you and your child over this coming year.

The start of the day - A reminder that there is a member of staff on duty on the Year 3/4 playground from 8.40am each day. To ensure safety of the children, they are not allowed on the trim trail before school. Talking with their friends, rather than running around the playground, provides a calm start to their learning for the day. At 8.50am the children are encouraged to line up in their classes without their parents /carers. This helps your child's independence from the start of the school day.

THE CURRICULUM

The children are taught in their classes...

Maple Class with Miss Keen supported by Mrs Healey in the mornings

Chestnut Class with Mrs Danton supported by Miss Rush in the mornings

There are also occasions when we will work together to add variety and share skills. Some children may participate in smaller groups for focused work. English and Maths follow the objectives of the National Curriculum. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus.

An overview of each term is posted on our school website under *Life at St Mary's, Key Stage 2* giving more details about the children's learning.

Also, for our learning in History, Geography, Science and RE, you will find a knowledge organiser. This contains the facts that the children will learn and need to know by the end of the topic. Going through the facts with your child will help his or her learning.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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, shorts, tracksuit or sweatshirt and jogging bottoms and trainers as well as their indoor daps**. We will be outside in all weathers, unless extreme, so it is important that children have their school uniform to change back into after what could be a wet session outside.

Children in Year 4 will start **swimming** in Term 3. A separate letter nearer the time will give full details. Please ensure that the slip is returned and that payment is made on time.

LEARNING AT HOME

Homework provides opportunities to reinforce their learning during school time, develops their research skills and having to hand homework in on time helps them to become independent learners.

Maths

The expectation of the new curriculum is that, by the end of Year 4, all children will be able to recall times table facts for all numbers up to 12 x 12. To help with this, we encourage children to regularly learn their times tables. Good websites to help learn and practise times tables include...

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

Geography/History

We will create three homework tasks to enrich our learning across the curriculum. Details of the tasks can be found on our website. House point tokens will be awarded for work completed. Each task shows when it can be handed in - please don't hand it in before the date shown. Please encourage and support your child but don't do the tasks for them!

Reading

We strive to instil a love of reading for pleasure in every child. We carefully choose a class book to accompany each topic; the book titles can be found on our topic overviews. You might like to know that our class book for terms 1 and 2 is **Secrets of A Sun King** by Emma Carroll. The children are welcome to bring their own copies into school to read along in class. Whilst it is readily available to purchase on-line, we encourage you to support our local shops. The Yellow Lighted Bookshop will very happily order it for next day delivery if not in stock at the time.

The process of reading in school is mostly taught through whole class *Guided Reading* sessions. At home, encourage your child to read daily when possible and answer questions about the text they have read. Please remember to write a comment in the Home Reading Record when you hear your child read. Just as you enjoy hearing your child read (still important in Year 4), he or she also enjoys hearing you read so please take time to share a book.

Spelling

We believe that good spelling is an essential skill which allows the children to communicate their understanding in all curriculum subjects. Spelling patterns and rules are taught specifically in class.

Each term, your child will be given a list of words to learn. They will be broken down into weeks along with the date (a Friday) on which they will be checked in school. The children will be given their word list and it will also be set as an activity on Seesaw. We really do appreciate the

additional support from home to learn these words as it will make such a big impact on your child's reading and writing. If you would like further help with ways to support your child with reading and/or spelling then contact the class teacher who will be able to advise you.

FOREST SCHOOL

We are fortunate to have Forest School this year led by Mr Knight. Making sure that your child has the appropriate clothes for every session will enable them to participate fully, getting the most from their forest school learning. You will be kept informed of the dates.

PLAYTIME

Children need to have appropriate clothing for playtime including a waterproof coat with a hood and wellies, which can be stored in our welly sheds, as our aim is to be outside whenever possible. A healthy snack consisting of fruit or vegetables may be brought in and eaten during playtime.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Your child needs to have their **reading book** and **reading record** in school every day. Children also need a **water bottle** so they can have a drink on hand in class. Providing a suitable **apron** to wear during art activities will help to protect your child's school uniform. An old shirt, adult size, provides the perfect cover-up for messy activities.

The end of the day

School ends for Key Stage 2 at 3.15pm. Please inform us if there are any changes to who will be collecting your child via the school office.

A Final Note

We will work hard to make sure that your child has an enjoyable and successful year of learning and look forward to your continued support and encouragement. Please feel free to approach your child's teacher to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or well being.

Mrs Danton and Miss Keen