

September 2019
Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new school year. Thrilled with how well the children are already settling into their classes, 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 Mrs Royle supported by Mrs Healey in the mornings

Chestnut Class with Mrs Wheeler (Mon, Tues) and Mrs Danton (Wed-Fri) supported by Ms 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.

OUR TOPICS	
Terms 1 - 2	Pharaoh Nuff
Terms 3 - 4	Under the Canopy
Terms 5 - 6	Eco Warriors

An overview of each topic 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 each topic, 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 will start **swimming** at Westonbirt pool on **Thursday 6th February**, the first of eight sessions. A separate letter nearer the time will give full details. Please ensure that the slip and money is returned as soon as possible.

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 12×12 . To help with this, most children will bring home a book of times table workouts. As well as practising their times tables, children will use a variety of mathematical vocabulary and solve problems using their times tables. Please ensure that your child/children complete only one workout each week, handing their books in on Mondays to be marked and returned to them on Wednesdays.

Topic

We will create three homework tasks to enrich each topic, 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. The children are welcome to bring their own copies into school to read along in class.

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.

The statutory word list which children should be able to spell by the end of Year 4 is available on our website. 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 on Fridays for two, three week blocks. 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.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Friday 22nd November - Year 4 WOW Day - Children will learn about everyday life in Ancient Egypt. They are invited to come to school dressed as an Ancient Egyptian for the day.

Tuesday 19th November - Year 4 Visit to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford - Details nearer the time.

July 2020 - Following the success of our visits over recent years we are delighted to announce this year's residential visit to The Wilderness Centre in the Forest of Dean will be the week beginning 29th June. More details later in the year.

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. Our school especially welcomes help from parents and carers so if you are able to offer any help please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Royle, Mrs Danton and Mrs Wheeler