

September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you have all had an enjoyable and restful summer holiday. 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.

We start the year with our **Heroes and Monsters** topic. 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 will follow at the start of November). Please be aware that we aim to be as flexible as possible so as to allow the children choices in terms of the direction of the learning (whilst covering the statutory requirements of the curriculum). Therefore, the topic web is an overview of the areas we will cover. We may discover that we learn about different areas depending on the children's interests.

We have had some changes in our staffing this year. Here is a list of who will be working in each class and on which days they will be working:

Oak: Mrs Cartledge (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) Mrs Macloed (Tuesday)  
Mrs Weston (every morning)

Ash: Mr Godfrey (every day) and Mrs Rudge (every morning)

Elm: Miss Snell (every day) and Mrs Lee (every morning)

This is also 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.

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:** Children will be given a paper - based task which will reflect the learning that has taken place in class that week. Please encourage your child to complete their homework and hand it in on the following WEDNESDAY. MY MATHS will also be set (we anticipate this will start week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> September) for those children wishing to access it at home.

**English/Topic:** Homework linked to our learning will be sent home in a grid format termly. Children will be expected to complete 3 tasks from the grid and it should be completed and returned as indicated by the class teachers. Homework should always be completed to a high standard in the exercise book provided. 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 English, the children also receive a spelling list of 25 words at the start of each term. These lists are made up of words from the word lists provided in the National Curriculum. The children will be tested on these spellings at the end of each term, so it is important that they practise them regularly throughout the term. 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 or light blue), shorts (dark blue or black), tracksuit or sweatshirt and jogging bottoms and trainers. 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:** Once again, we are really pleased to invite everyone in to school on selected mornings (8.40 to 8.50am) to look at examples of your child's learning. Please check the newsletter for dates.

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.

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,

Mrs R Cartledge, Mr Godfrey, Miss Snell and Mrs Macleod

A final note:

In year 5/6, parents /carers often feel their child is old enough to walk home by themselves. In order to do this, please sign the permission slip below otherwise we will not be able to allow your child to leave the school premises alone.

Thank you for your understanding.

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#### PERMISSION SLIP

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ class to walk home from school on their own.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

