

# YEAR 5 CLASS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024













Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to St Mary's, we hope that you and your family enjoyed a wonderful and peaceful Christmas break. The children have settled well back into the school routines and we are looking forward to our next term of learning together. Your support in ensuring that your child completes their Home Learning every week and reads every day with you will continue to help your child to make accelerated progress and reach their full potential.

## Curriculum

We will continue our Maths and Literacy learning by building on the key skills that the children learned last year. Our topic this term will be 'Invaders and Settlers - Anglo-Saxons & Vikings'. We will be delivering a lot of the learning in Science, History, Geography and Design Technology through our topics, with links to the learning in Literacy and Maths. Below is an outline of what we will be covering in our curriculum.

English 	In English, we will be reading 'The Island' by Armin Greder. Through this story, the children will be inspired to write descriptive poems, postcards, dialogues, setting descriptions and letters. We will also be reading the story of 'The Freedom Bird' by Jerrine Nolen. The book explores themes of hardship, and the significance of the American Civil War and will support children in building empathy towards those facing difficult situations. We will be launching our Poetry competition, so please begin to think about a Poem that your child could learn and perform (or they can write their own!).
Reading 	In Reading, we will be focusing on 'Freedom Bird' by Jerrine Nolen. The children will explore how the author uses dialogue to advance the action in the story. We will also be working on our skills of prediction and inference (identifying what the author is trying to communicate by reading between the lines, looking for clues and drawing on our experiences and understanding of the world). <b>Please ensure that you hear your child read every day and check that they are updating their Reading Record.</b>
Maths 	This half term we will be focusing on using Fractions. We will be learning how to add and subtract fractions with the same and different denominators which will draw on our prior learning of finding equivalent fractions. We will also be using written methods to multiply and divide larger numbers. In the second half of the term we will be learning how to convert between fractions, decimals and percentages. By the end of the term, the children will be expected to multiply two 2-digit numbers ( $35 \times 23$ ) independently and to convert fractions to decimals and percentages.
RE 	In RE, we will be learning about Sikhism and their beliefs. Children will link this to their beliefs and how it informs their day to day decisions and interactions. After half term, we will be exploring the Easter story and delve into themes of friendship and betrayal as portrayed by Judas and Peter. We will also look at the role of women and find out about the most important person in the Easter narrative.
Topic 	In this topic, pupils will first learn about who the Anglo-Saxons were and place their time in England on a timeline. The children will explore where the Anglo-Saxons came from, why they invaded England and why they left. We will also discover what daily life was like in Anglo-Saxon times and what legacies they left behind. In Science Lessons, they will learn about forces and simple machines. They will find out about gears, pulleys and levers and their functions within machines. This will be linked to our study of the Anglo-Saxons and they will find out how the Anglo-Saxons used simple machines in their time. In DT, pupils will learn about the main features of a windmill and have a go at building, testing and improving their own windmills. After half term, we will move on to focus on the times and legacies of the Vikings.

<b>Values</b> 	We will be focusing on the whole school values of <b>Love</b> and <b>Forgiveness</b> . We will be exploring these values throughout this term and children will have the opportunity to learn how these values can be displayed, referring to examples from Bible stories and influential figures.
<b>Computing</b> 	In Computing, we will be learning about different types of Computer Games. The children will play and evaluate a variety of different types of games. Ultimately, they will create their own games to be played and evaluated by their peers.
<b>Music</b> 	The children will continue to learn to play the trumpet or recorder.
<b>PSHE</b> 	We will be following the Jigsaw scheme of work in our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). This term our units are 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'. The children will be thinking about their own aspirations in their academic and personal life and consider how to plan to help achieve their goals. They will be working on understanding how to manage feelings of disappointment if their dreams do not always come true. We will be looking at the impact that smoking and alcohol can have on a person's health. We will continue to explore balanced diets and how to maintain a healthy relationship with food.
<b>MFL</b> 	We will be studying French as our Modern Foreign Language (MFL). This term we will be learning to tell the date in French. By the end, children should be able to say their date of birth in French.

### Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024

- Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> January – we will launch our Annual Poetry Competition
- Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> January – After School Clubs begin
- Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> January: Viking Workshop
- **TBC Tues 30<sup>th</sup> January 1:30 PM– Catford Library visit**
- Wed 31<sup>st</sup> January 9AM – Candlemas and Eucharist worship in St Mary's Church
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Own Clothes £1 (wear RED for Chinese New Year) – Dragon Dancing, Food & Crafts
- **Mon 12<sup>th</sup> – Fri 16<sup>th</sup> February – HALF TERM**
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March 9AM – Mothering Sunday worship in School
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March 8AM – Parent's Reading Breakfast in School
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March – Children's Own Clothes Day – dress up as a BOOK CHARACTER for BOOK WEEK
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> March – we will launch our Easter Competition to create an Easter Egg
- Thu 14<sup>th</sup> March – PARENTS' EVENING
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Own Clothes Day (pay £1) and at 3PM Easter Cake Sale and Games to raise money for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal
- Thu 28<sup>th</sup> March 1:00PM – End of Spring Term
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April 8:40AM - Children return to school for the Summer Term

### Key Reminders

- Please be on time at the beginning (8:40) and end (3:10) of the school day
- Please ring the school office if you have arranged for a new person to collect your child



## PE

Please note that the children must bring the correct PE kit (plain navy blue/black jogging bottoms, plain white t-shirt and plain black plimsolls/trainers) to every PE lesson. Our PE coach, Mr Tientcheu, will lead the children in the PE curriculum alongside their teacher. **PE lessons will be on Friday.**



## Jewellery

We advise that the children do not wear **any** jewellery to school although plain stud earrings are acceptable. Please bear in mind that if your child is wearing earrings they need to be able to remove them themselves for PE lessons.

## Clothing

Please make sure that all of your child's items of clothing are clearly labelled with their names. This applies to all items of school uniform, PE kit and coats. School shoes should be plain and black.

## Home Learning

Home Learning will be set on Friday and should be completed by Tuesday. In addition to the learning set, your children should be regularly practicing their times tables, spellings and reading every day.

**There is a clear expectation that every child fully completes their Home Learning every week and we will be keeping a record and contacting parents where this is not the case.**

## Reading

It is vital that your child reads to you every day. Please ensure that they complete their reading journal and bring it into school **daily**. Your child will be given books, which we will aim to change on a weekly basis. If you have any concerns or would like some support with this, then please contact the school.

**Appointments** - If you have any queries or wish to make an appointment, please ring the School office on 0208 6902613 or email [admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)

We greatly value your support with your child's learning.

Mrs Kuku (Class Teacher)      Miss Henry (Teaching Assistant)      Ms Prendergast (Teaching Assistant)