

St Mary's Newsletter

Autumn Term – Friday 25th September 2020

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Attendance
Weekly – 95%
Year to date – 96.6%

Dear Parents/Carers,

Message from the Headteacher:

Parents and Carers Survey

In last week's newsletter we discussed this annual survey - which you will remember was completed back in February, during our Parents and Carers Consultation Evenings. Each week, over the next few months, we will focus in on an area from that survey. This week we will examine the survey question **Are you familiar with the school curriculum?**

Some of our parents and carers commented during the survey that they would like to know more about the curriculum offer at St Mary's – so this week I will provide you all with more information on how we structure the curriculum for our lovely children.

Over the last academic year, the teaching staff have put a lot of

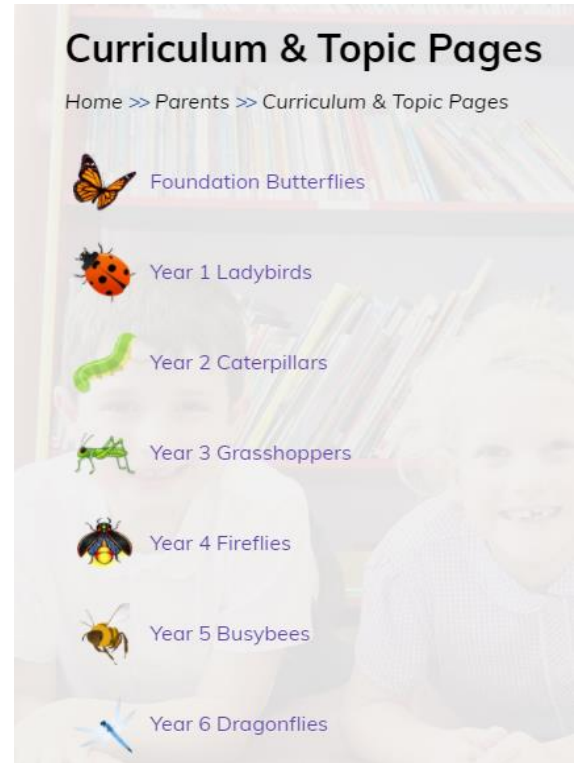
hard work into each class' curriculum offer, to ensure that each and every one of our St Mary's pupils is given not only a well-planned, well thought-out and rigorous curriculum, but also one that is memorable and engaging. Our subject leaders have taken a key role in maximising their subjects and ensuring that each St Mary's pupil gets a creative, broad and balanced curriculum from the very moment they join the school,

to the moment that they leave.

To enable this to happen, each year group now produces a Topic Page, also known as a Topic Map. These can be found on the school website following this link

<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/curriculum-topic-pages/>

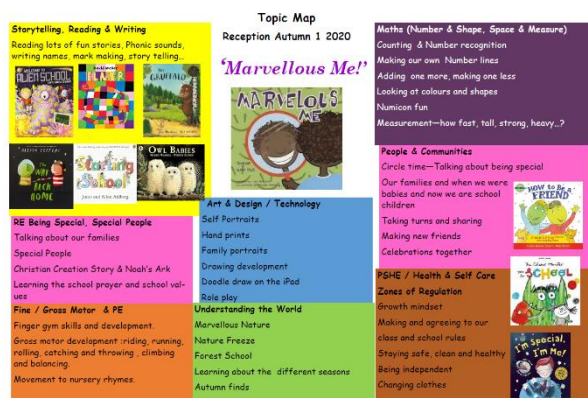
Each class teacher will construct a Topic Page every half term or every term – depending on the subject matter of the topic itself.



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| ENGLISH <ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-Chronological Reports: All About Ancient EgyptWriting tasks based around Egyptian CinderellaDiary entry – A day in the life of an Ancient EgyptianInstructions – How to Make a Mummy | HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY <ul style="list-style-type: none">Exploring Ancient Egyptian artefacts and sources and looking at what we can learn from them. Looking at how architects use this to help them discover more about Ancient Civilisations.Exploring Ancient Egyptian daily life and comparing it to life today.Famous Egyptian Pharaohs and mummification! | FRENCH <ul style="list-style-type: none">NumbersVowelsInstructionsBasic Conversation |
| READING FOCUS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Illustrated non-fiction | PSHE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Belonging and BelongingAnti-bullyingFuture Aspirations | ART/DT <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ceramic Jars from ClayEgyptian Landscape Water ColoursEgyptian Death Masks |
| COMPUTING <ul style="list-style-type: none">Learning the language of computing and beginning to explore using algorithms and how to debug. | TOMB RAIDERS Year 3 - Autumn Term <ul style="list-style-type: none">Entry – Archaeological dig to discover Ancient Egyptian artefactsExit – Egyptian Day where children dress up and carry out Egyptian activities | MUSIC <ul style="list-style-type: none">Singing and playing the glockenspiel as part of an ensemble.Listening to and appraising music over a period of time. |
| SCIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Forces and Magnets. Comparing how objects move on different surfacesMagnetic forces Attracting and Repelling Grouping objects based on whether they are magnetic or non-magneticLight How light reflects How shadows are created and change How to protect your eyes from the sun | RE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Christianity<ul style="list-style-type: none">What do Christians learn from the Creation Story?What is the Trinity?Judaism<ul style="list-style-type: none">What is the importance of the home in Jewish life? | Enrichment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Have you visited The Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge and seen their Egyptian section?Have you visited Saqqara/Meknes museum to see their Egyptian artefacts? |

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| ENGLISH – classic fiction, adventure stories, suspense, poetry, recounts, debate, newspaper reports. READING FOCUS <ul style="list-style-type: none">EMILCRIME & PUNISHMENT | ENRICHMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">Perhaps a visit to the 'Clink Prison Museum' in London.Have you read or watched Oliver Twist?Do you know what punishment was like in the past? AUTUMN TERM (Year 6) CRIME & PUNISHMENT CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS | HISTORY – the evolution of our current legal system starting with the Romans, via Anglo-Saxons, Tudors Victorians to the present day! Dick Turpin – Hero or Villain? Famous Prisons, e.g. Clerici, Alcatraz... GEOGRAPHY – use fieldwork to observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods. Map work. |
| SCIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">How can you be identified by your fingerprints and your DNA (forensic science)?How does your body work (digestive, musculoskeletal and circulatory systems)?How do we design and create a series circuit (electricity)?What would you like investigate? how will you make it fair? how will you present your results? | PSHE – my basic rights, the role of the media and its impact, staying safe, government, community, rules and the law MUSIC – creating our own hero and villain theme music, reading, writing and recording live music FRENCH – This is France! 🇫🇷 | COMPUTING <ul style="list-style-type: none">E-Safety – social mediaPLAN, PRODUCE, OBSERVE, DEVELOPPowerPoint, Excel, WordNews reports, Podcasts RE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Creation / FallHindujansIncarnation |
| ART/DT <ul style="list-style-type: none">Finger/hand print artClay art or vanitas/artart therapysculptureM. C. Escher | | |

Topics include **Crime and Punishment**, **Marvellous Me!**, **Groovy Greeks**, **Tomb Raiders** and much, more more! Most classes will study between 3 and 6 topics over the course of an academic year. The class teachers will then aim to structure their curriculum for that term around the main topic.



There was also an increased emphasis put on **school trips and visitors to the school** – which we all know add that extra touch of fun and excitement to a topic and help to further embed vital knowledge and skills. Some of the highlights from last year include: when we welcomed an incredibly talented graffiti artist into the Busybee and Dragonfly classes; when Ladybirds visited the local Fire Station; when Caterpillar class went out on some visits to local castles and fortifications; when Grasshopper class were visited by members of a hospital emergency

response team and when Firefly class got to be Vikings for the day. We also welcomed a crazy scientist into St Mary's - who fascinated our children whilst he worked with each class and demonstrated some really exciting practical science lessons – some even made my hair stand on end – literally!

Furthermore, so that our children can remember these exciting experiences we now have a new display board in our school hall called **'Memorable Moments'** and our children really enjoy looking at photographs, posters and class write-ups of themselves in action, regularly pointing these out to their class mates.

These are just a small sample of the many trips and visitors that we welcomed during that term. Even though we have a number of challenges this academic year (for obvious reasons) we are looking forwards to welcoming many new visitors into our school, where we can, to further enrich our children's curriculum.

Next week, I will share some more information with you all about how we structure the curriculum at St Mary's.

In the meantime, if you visit the school website in the 'Parents' section, or alternatively, click on the following link <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/topic/parents> you will be taken to a wealth of resources, to show you how we plan and deliver our curriculum at St Marys'.

Mr C. D. Jarmain

Headteacher at St Mary's



Our Shining Lights

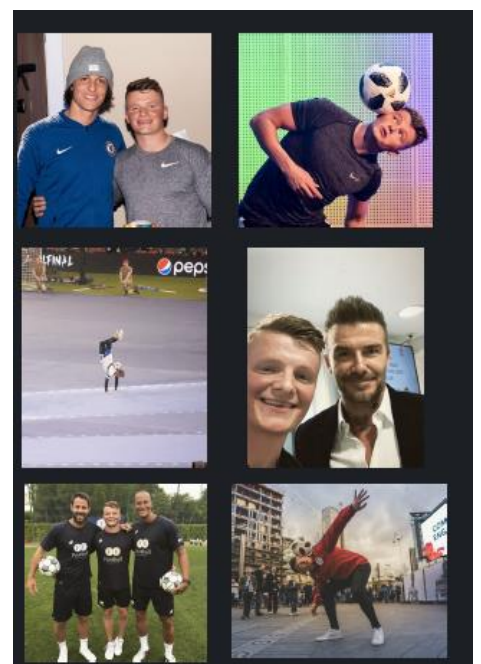


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| Reception | Wow, what a busy week Butterflies have had, with a lot of firsts - Adventure Playground, Forest school, PE and skipping! Well done again for a super week, coming into school ready to learn and willing to attempt all these new challenges. |
| Year 1 | <p>On Monday Year 1 took their new spoon puppet friends around school and introduced them to their school routine. They taught them how to line up, wash their hands, sit smartly at their desks and even took them out for the Golden Mile. We have used this experience to build on sequencing and writing tasks. The rest of the week we have been working on our topic, learning about the human body in Science and making puppets with moving parts in Art. They have all impressed us with their excellent addition skills in Maths.</p> <p>Please could we remind all children to bring their reading books into school every day, so that we can read with them in school as often as possible. Thank you!</p> |
| Year 2 | We have also been discussing birthdays and some children were unsure of when theirs is. It would be great if all the children knew when their special day is, so have a chat at dinner time and see if they can remember the date 🤔 |
| Year 3 | Grasshoppers have had another brilliant week this week. They have learned the gruesome way the Ancient Egyptians used to create mummies and have created a sarcophagus for their own mummies. In music this week, they have been listening and appraising pieces carefully and then improvising followed by learning a 'Let Your Spirit Fly' on the glockenspiel. They |

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| | had a brilliant time taking part in the skipping challenge on Wednesday afternoon and then explored the classroom looking for items which were magnetic. |
| Year 4 | <p>The Year 4 pupils have been learning a variety of different things this week. In Science, we were learning about sound and linking it to vibrations. The pupils did fantastically well to carry out an experiment showing how musical instruments vibrate by using a drum and rice to show further how sound and vibrations are linked.</p> <p>In our PSHE lessons, we reintroduced the zones of regulation and created some finger paintings showing the different emotions that we all experience.</p> |
| Year 5 | <p>Another week has gone by and the Bees class are doing really well in all their subjects! After researching the Ancient Greeks, the class have begun their non-chronological reports and are having a great time putting in most of the facts they've gathered. I say most and not all because they are enjoying learning new ones in our Topic and Art lessons, where we've looked more closely at the Olympian Gods and how ancient myths display that they were not as benevolent or honourable as the Abrahamic God - ask your child to see if they can remember why Medusa became a monster or why the Greeks believed we had different seasons! Bees class then used these stories to begin designing the art for their own clay pots, depicting a myth about a god of their choice.</p> <p>The children have also had a great time looking at the mysteries of the present, such as gravity, where they conducted an investigation into how mass and weight are linked but not the same. And lastly, the children had a fantastic time learning how to skip (a big thank you to Ms Driscoll for organising that for the school!) in different ways.</p> |
| Year 6 | Year 6 have been continuing to learn how to create tension and suspense within their writing finishing the week by writing the opening 2 paragraphs to their own suspense story. In R.E the children have been looking at Psalm 8 and discussing the responsibility given to humans to look after God's creations and how well we think we are doing. This week in Science the children took prints of their fingerprints and analysed them. They then had to identify a suspect using the different types of fingerprints. |

Football Workshop – Monday 5th October 2020

We are very excited to announce that on Monday 5th October, we will be welcoming Jamie Knight (top 10 world football freestyler) to St Mary's to run a fabulous workshop for the children. Jamie's inspirational workshops have been well received by hundreds of other schools over the UK, offering an opportunity to learn some fun football skills with plenty of social and physical benefits as well as reinforcing the all-important lessons of hard work and perseverance which is so important to us as a school. This is good timing as the children prepare for our virtual football competition with USSP and we will be able to continue practising the skills we learn with Jamie in PE.



E-safety and Wellbeing:

Supporting your child to be happy and healthy online

As a teacher, parent or carer, the best tool to support our children in leading a safe and positive life online is open conversation. Below is a link to a leaflet which includes practical advice and conversation starters to help you discuss the online world with your child. Whether you are approaching these conversations for the first time, or you have already made a start, this advice can help you to support your child to use technology in a happy and healthy way. This advice is part of Childnet's Parent & Carer Toolkit, designed to guide you in supporting all aspects of your child's online life. It also includes Childnet's 'Family Agreement' and Parents & Carers Resource Sheet. Find the whole toolkit at: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit>

NEW - Home Learning Plans!

Please don't forget to check out our new Home Learning Plans which we introduced in last week's newsletter and are available on our school website. Please follow this link, which will take you to the Parents section of our website: <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/home-learning-plans/>

These new Home Learning Plans are to be used by parents or carers where their child or children are off school for a short period of time due to illness – or whether it is because a child, sibling or parent/carer is awaiting a test result and whilst the rest of the class is still in school and getting taught by their class teacher. There are a series of links which will take our parents/carers to English, Maths, Science, Topic and PE and fitness activities, including videos to watch, and online activities to complete. All the pupils will need are some simple stationery (paper/pens/rulers etc) and some paper to record their work and ideally a computer or laptop (or another device where they can access the internet).

There is an expectation that the children fully utilise these materials when they are off school, so please do contact the school if you have no access to the internet and are unable to use these Home Learning Plans from home.

| Home Learning Tasks for Y2 | |
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| <p>This home learning letter provides your child with learning activities from various areas of the curriculum to complete at home. Each area of learning will have a link which you can use to access the work. Please ensure the maths and English tasks are completed in the morning and the foundation activities (science and topic) in the afternoon, as it would be in school. One maths, English and phonics task should be completed every day. One foundation activity must be completed each day, your child can choose between science and topic. Please ensure your child reads every day.</p> <p>To access Phonics Play click on this link and you can use the website resources for free. https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/</p> | |
| English (x 50 minutes each day) | <p>https://classroom.thenationalacademy.com/units/the-magic-paintbrush-mood-1d98</p> <p>Please use the above link to Oak Academy for the daily writing activity. This is a narrative unit using the Magic Paintbrush by Julia Donaldson. Each daily lesson provides a learning video to follow and an activity to complete. Watch the video in full prior to completing the task. Start at lesson 1 and continue to work your way through the lessons each day.</p> |
| Phonics (x 15 minutes per day) | <p>Log in to phonics play https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ and select a phase 5 activity to play. You can also practice tricky words. If you find this hard, you can go over phase 3 and 4 activities also.</p> |
| Maths (x 30 minutes) | <p>Practice your number bonds to 10 and 20 every day. Count in 2s, 5s and 10s.</p> <p>In mathematics we would like you to complete daily lessons using White Rose. Use the link below to access these lessons. Start at lesson 1 and continue to work your way through the lessons each day. Complete one lesson per day – each lesson provided has a teaching video, main activity, and the answers so you can check your own work. There are some additional tasks which you may wish to try as well.</p> <p>https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/resources/year-2/</p> |
| Science (x 40 minutes) | <p>Follow the daily science lessons from Oak Academy. The learning topic is The Animal Kingdom and Habitats.</p> <p>https://classroom.thenationalacademy.com/units/the-animal-kingdom-3fd9 https://classroom.thenationalacademy.com/units/habitats-c850</p> |
| Topic (x 40 minutes) | <p>Follow the daily geography lessons from Oak Academy. The learning topic is The Seven Continents.</p> <p>https://classroom.thenationalacademy.com/units/seven-continents-c8e</p> |
| Reading For Pleasure (x 20mins per day) | <p>Read a book of your choice, discussing it with an adult.</p> <p>Log in to your Bugclub account, read your allocated books and try the comprehension activities.</p> |
| Physical Exercise (x 30 minutes) | <p>Use this link for a number of suggested Physical activities to complete at home https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/sports-and-fitness-ideas/</p> |
| Independent Play | <p>Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strengths. Play is important to healthy brain development. It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them. So remember to get your toys out and play for at least an hour a day!</p> |

| October 2020 | |
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| WHOLE MONTH | Black History Month |
| Thursday 1st October | Census Day – all day breakfast and doughnuts! |
| Monday 5 th October | Football Workshop with Jamie Knight |
| Wednesday 14th October (9am) | Individual Photographs |
| Monday 12th October | Firework Assembly |
| Friday 23rd October | INSET Day |
| Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October | Half Term Holiday |

| November 2020 | |
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| Monday 2 nd November | Pirates Day for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 |
| Friday 6th November | Flu Jabs |
| Friday 13th November | Children in Need Day |
| Monday 16th - 20th November | Anti-bullying week |
| Wednesday 18th November | Open Morning for September 2021 intake |

Have a lovely weekend.

