



St Mary's C of E Primary School
New Road
Northchurch
Berkhamsted
Herts
HP4 3QZ

Tel: 01442 389040

Email: [HYPERLINK](mailto:admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk)

"mailto:admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk"
admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Miss Sarah Gray

Date: 07/01/26

Dear Families of Year 5,

Happy New Year! We had an excellent first term, which was rounded off nicely with some really joyful Christmas celebrations. I am delighted to see that the children have returned to school ready for action, with fully loaded pencil cases, taking on greater independence and keen to carry on making excellent progress.

This half term will be crammed with the usual exciting learning opportunities. You can find out what topics we are covering on the school website's whole school curriculum map.

Reading

Reading remains a high priority in Year 5. As confidence and fluency grow, many children begin to enjoy reading independently, which we strongly encourage. However, we also ask that families continue to read together regularly. Reading with your child helps correct errors, check understanding, and introduce new vocabulary. Sharing stories—whether taking turns reading or enjoying a bedtime book—also models fluent reading, supports comprehension, and keeps longer texts moving forward at a pace that maintains interest and enjoyment.

Based on our recent assessments, we have a big focus on inference during our guided reading sessions; this means encouraging children to use clues from the text alongside what they already know to work out information that the author does not state directly. You can support this at home by asking your child questions such as “How do you know?”, “What clues helped you work that out?” and “What might this tell us about the character?” when reading together.

Homework





Homework will continue to be set every Thursday and should be handed in by the following Tuesday. Tasks will be marked together as a class during the week. Work will be shared via Google Classroom, and children should complete their answers in their homework books. Tasks will include reading, spelling, maths, and times tables, all linked to our current learning. Children are encouraged to complete these in any order, giving them a chance to take ownership of their learning and to build knowledge, skills, and independence in a way that suits them best.

PSHE

In PSHE this term, we will be exploring topics around safety and the changing body. This includes exploring the emotional and physical changes during puberty, including menstruation, learning about online safety, influence and strategies to use to overcome pressure from others. Further information about these lessons will be sent home via email, and a parent email with relevant information and topic and vocabulary covered will be arranged ahead of the more sensitive content.

CLASS NOTICES

Our PE days are now **Wednesday** and **Thursday** (for this half term). On these days, children should come into school wearing their full PE kit. For safety reasons, earrings must be removed before the lesson. Please take some time to practise this at home with your child if needed. Full details of our PE kit expectations can be found on the school website.

Please use the year5@stmarys.916.herts.sch.uk email address to let us know about any alternative arrangements for going home or to contact me to book appointments to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Class Wish List

We are always grateful for the generous support of our families. With lots of learning (and the occasional snuffle!), our class uses tissues daily. If you can contribute a box, we would be very grateful.





Thank you, as always, for your support.

Warm regards,
Miss Gill

