



St Mary's C of E Primary School
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Berkhamsted
Herts
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Head Teacher: Miss Sarah Gray

January 2025

Welcome Back to the Spring Term – Year 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back this week, and they have returned with great energy and enthusiasm, ready for an exciting and important term ahead.

As we move into the spring term, we will be continuing to explore a range of engaging topics while also beginning more focused preparation for the end of Key Stage 2 SATs. This term is a key one for Year 6, and we will be working hard in school to ensure that every child feels confident, supported, and ready to achieve their very best. Your support at home—particularly with reading and homework—will be absolutely crucial in helping us reach this goal together.

English

In English, the children will continue to develop their report writing skills using *Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You* by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black. They will be writing detailed reports about mythical creatures, while also honing their narrative writing skills with a focus on integrating dialogue. In addition, the children will be developing their ability to write balanced arguments in response to a range of questions.

A significant focus this term will be on reading comprehension. We will be explicitly teaching strategies to help children approach questions with confidence, make inferences when answers are not directly stated, and retrieve information accurately from across longer texts.

Maths

In Maths, we will be covering a wide range of key areas including algebra, measurement, fractions, decimals and percentages, geometry, ratio and proportion, and statistics. To support SATs preparation, the children will continue to complete a reasoning or an arithmetic paper every Friday.





PSHE

In PSHE this term, we will be exploring topics around safety and the changing body. This includes online safety and the reliability of information, changes during puberty, how a baby is conceived and develops, the risks associated with alcohol, and basic first aid (including how to help someone who is choking or unresponsive). 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.

Supporting Your Child at Home

- **Reading:** Please ensure your child reads regularly at home.
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- **Times Tables:** Frequent practice continues to be incredibly beneficial—little and often makes a big difference.
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- **Spellings:** Spellings are set weekly and linked to the spelling rule taught in class. We will be completing spelling practice every Wednesday this term.
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Practical Information

- **P.E.:** Year 6 P.E. lessons take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. As we try to be outside whenever possible, please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing, including a jumper and tracksuit bottoms.
- **Equipment:** Children need bring one labelled pencil case containing a pencil, blue pen, red pen, ruler (30cm if possible), rubber, sharpener, and colouring pencils.
- **Water Bottles:** Please ensure your child brings a labelled water bottle to school each day.
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School Trip

We are very much looking forward to our visit to the Young Voices concert at the O2 on Tuesday 20th January. The children are thoroughly enjoying learning the songs in music lessons, and it promises to be a fantastic day.

Communication

We operate an open-door policy and strongly encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns, or changes to pick-up arrangements. Please use the Year 6 email address or contact the school office by phone or email so that we can manage communication safely and effectively.

year6@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk



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We are all working together to support the educational, emotional, and physical development of your child in a safe, happy, and nurturing environment. If at any point you have concerns about your child's school experience, please do not hesitate to contact me—working in partnership is key to a successful and positive Year 6.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I am really looking forward to the term ahead.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Paros

