



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

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Dear Families of Year 1,

Welcome back from what was hopefully a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday break. I hope that you are now ready for an exciting Spring term.

The children are settled into the Year 1 routine and I have been very impressed with how they have risen to the challenge of a more structured day. I have been amazed with the progress that they have made so far and their maturity and excellent attitude towards learning. During the Spring term, the structure of the day will remain the same with mornings consisting of Phonics, Maths and Literacy and in the afternoons, the foundation subjects such as PE, Geography, History, PSHE, Computing and Forest School will be taught. There will be a 15 minute afternoon break at 2pm on days with no PE sessions.

During the Spring term, our main focus in Literacy lessons will be continuing to build upon our knowledge of phonics to support both reading and writing. The children are now writing in complete sentences with an emphasis on building sentences with capital letters, punctuation, finger spaces, using our phonics and checking that our work makes sense. Phonics and letter formations will continue to be taught in groups using the Read, Write Inc materials.

In Maths this term, we will continue to work on addition and subtraction strategies and writing number sentences. These skills will be practised in a variety of practical problem solving activities working with numbers up to 20. The Maths Curriculum is also supplemented by a short 'Mastering Number' session each day which is designed to 'overlearn' the basic number facts to build fluency in number. The sessions have been very successful so far as they are enabling the children to have vital facts at their fingertips and practise using and understanding the language of Maths.

HOMEWORK

Please continue to listen to your child read the *Read Write Inc* reading book **daily** for around **10 minutes** and record the reading in the yellow Reading Record book. Thank you so much for those parents who continue to dedicate time to reading daily- it really does make such a difference to your child's reading progress. If you need help with how to support your child with their reading, please do ask me.

Each week, the children will continue to take home a reading book which will be appropriate for their reading level. This will be changed on a Friday but please ensure that the reading book is put back into the book bag each day as we will also be doing regular individual reading at school. I will also continue to do guided reading sessions within the school





day where I read with a group of 6 children and we share the same book. I will initial the reading record book so that you know I have read with your child.

Finally, as you know, I also set homework on our Google Classroom, which consists of a short spelling and Maths task, reinforcing the learning we are doing at school. The tasks are set on Thursdays to be handed in on Tuesdays. You can either take a photo and add it to the Google Classroom or record your homework in the exercise book, where it will be acknowledged.

CLASS NOTICES

Our PE days this half term have changed and are now Thursday afternoons, where I will be teaching gymnastics alongside a coach and the Friday afternoon session will remain the same. Please come to school in the full St Mary's PE kit on these days.

If your child is going home with anyone other than yourself, please let me know as I cannot let them go without your permission. Please send a message to our class email, year1@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning or well-being, please either arrange an appointment after school or let me know via the class email.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Zimet

