



Head Teacher: Mrs Lynne Osborne

Tel: 01442 389040 Fax: 01442 390589
Email: admin@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk



Friday 10th January

Dear Families of Year 2,

Welcome back and I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. I would like to start by saying how proud we all were of the children for their brilliant performances in our Christmas play this year- *The Inn-spectors*. This half term brings many more exciting experiences including RE day, a visit to both St Mary's Church and Northchurch Baptist Church and *Feeling Good Week* with a trip to the forest to complete the half term. Our whole school value for this half term is *Love*.

We will be learning all about The Great Fire of London and we will look at the life of Samuel Pepys, whose diaries we will be reading in order to discover more about the events of the fire. The topic will include many exciting activities, such as exploring how fire safety has changed over time by looking inside a fire engine, learning about Tudor houses, drama and artwork inspired by our learning.

Literacy:

This half term, we will be acting out scenes as well as writing our own diary entries as a witness of the fire. We will be looking at a variety of newspaper reports about the fire and comparing different styles and language used. For whole class reading, we will be practising the skills of skimming and scanning to retrieve information. To finish off the unit, the children will be creating a script and then using a green screen app on the iPads to broadcast live from the event!

Spellings:

The *Spring Tricky Words* will be sent out shortly. I would appreciate it if you could have a look at these with your child and they will be tested on them throughout the half term so thank you in advance for your continued support in helping your child with learning these. For homework, I will continue to send work to practise the spelling pattern which we are learning.

PE KITS

The children will need both indoor **and outdoor** PE kits in school at all times. Game On may be taking the children outdoors for PE on Tuesdays even if the weather is cold, therefore we ask that you ensure your child has an appropriate outdoor PE kit, including joggers, a jacket and trainers.

HOMEWORK

Reading

Children will continue to bring home 2 'choice books' every week, one of which is appropriate for their reading ability, and the other which they have chosen from our Reading corner or school library. Please share these with your child and sign the Reading Record card. Children who read at home four times a week are rewarded with a sticker. Reading books are changed on a Friday; please ensure children have **both books** in school with them **every day**. It's also a great idea to discuss the story plot with your child after reading to check their understanding and ability to retell the story in their own words.

Literacy and Numeracy

One piece of Numeracy and one piece of spellings homework will continue to be sent home every Friday as normal. These pieces of work will consolidate what we have been learning in school that week. Homework books will be handed in, checked and acknowledged every Thursday.

Thank you!

I would like to finish off by saying 'thank you' to all of the parents for your support at home with homework and reading but also helping to encourage the children to be enthusiastic about their learning. If you feel that you have anything which would enhance the topics this half term, please let me know. I have been very impressed with children coming to me and telling me all about how they are researching extra information at home, practising maths strategies, handwriting joins and spellings!

A REMINDER THAT YOU CAN COME AND SEE US ANY TIME...

If there is something worrying you about your child's education then I am keen to help. Please *do* come and see me if you have any questions or worries, or alternatively please write in your child's link book.

Many thanks

Mrs Zimet

<p align="center">Understanding English, Communication and languages (Speaking & Listening, Reading, Writing, MfL)</p>	<p align="center">Mathematical Understanding</p>	<p align="center">Religious Education</p>
<p>- the features of newspaper reports. Comparing and contrasting different styles of reports.</p> <p>- reading skills- skimming and scanning texts for answers in longer texts.</p> <p>- magpie-ing ideas for own writing.</p> <p>-diary writing to describe the events of the Great Fire of London.</p> <p>- drama- writing and performing a news broadcast of the Great Fire of London. Grammatical skills, handwriting, phonics, spellings and reading will be taught daily within whole class sessions.</p>	<p>- statistics- reading, interpreting and creating bar charts, tally charts, pictogram, tables.</p> <p>-money and finding change.</p> <p>-problem solving involving money</p> <p>-written methods for addition and subtraction.</p> <p>-problem solving using addition and subtraction.</p> <p>-counting in steps of 2,5 and 10.</p>	<p>The theme for this half term will be 'Churches'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thinking about and discussing places that are special to us and to other people - Thinking about why Christians go to Church - Exploring a church, what we expect to find and its artefacts - Christianity around the World
<p align="center">Scientific and Technological Understanding (Science, Design & Technology)</p>	<p align="center">Historical, Geographical and Social Understanding (PSHE, History, Geography)</p>	<p align="center">Computing (Taught by Mrs Archbold)</p>
<p><i>Planned and taught by Mrs Archbold.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To identify and compare different materials. -To identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials. -To understand that plastics can come in different forms for different uses. -To explore how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending. 	<p>History:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparing fire safety then and now. - Learning about the Great Fire of London, including what happened, why it happened and reading the diary of Samuel Pepys. - Famous faces- Samuel Pepys. <p>PSHE:</p> <p>This half term, we will be learning :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How we learn best and self-confidence - What jobs people have, discussing what we'd like to be in the future - About money- where it comes from and how we use it - Money awareness- choices, spending and saving - Problem solving and responsibility towards using money. 	<p><u>Questioning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To show that the information provided on pictograms is of limited use beyond answering simple questions. -To use yes/no questions to separate information. -To construct a binary tree to separate different items. -To use a database to answer more complex search questions. -To use the Search tool to find information.
<p align="center">Understanding physical Development, health and wellbeing. (Physical Education, Personal and Economic Wellbeing)</p>	<p align="center">Understanding the Arts (Art and Design, Music, Drama, Dance)</p>	
<p>Gymnastics will take place on Wednesday afternoon. This term will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Twists, turns and spins using different parts of the body. -Linking together three movements showing contrasts in speed and level. <p>Games will be taught by 'Game On' on a Tuesday afternoon.</p>	<p><u>Art and Design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Drama to re-enact the Great Fire of London. - Tudor houses. - Great Fire of London artwork. <p><u>Music</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To know how to control the pitch of the voice, respond to changes in pitch and know how simple tunes are made up of different pitches. - To perform different pitches on percussion instruments - To create and choose sounds in response to a given stimulus 	