



# Years 1&2 Newsletter Term 1



Be the BEST You Can Be!

*Whatever you do, do with all your heart. Colossians 3:23*

## WELCOME!

Welcome back to all of our children and families after the summer holidays; we hope you have had a lovely break. We are so impressed with how well the children have settled into their new classes and are adapting very well to new routines.

We are really looking forward to the new term, with lots of exciting and interesting things for the children to do. We hope that our newsletter will give you all the information you need for the term ahead, but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to grab us at the start or end of the day. If we cannot see you straight away then we can make an appointment for a time that suits you.

## What we are learning

Our topic this term is

In English, we are starting off using the fantastic picture book *Meerkat Mail* and linking our writing to this text. With Year 1 we will be focusing on developing sentence writing skills whilst Year 2 will have extended writing opportunities. Alongside our daily writing sessions, we will have Phonics - split into separate Year 1 and Year 2 groups, guided reading 3x weekly, handwriting (pre-cursive for Y1 and cursive writing for Y2 children) and also daily practise of Common Exception Words.

We are going to be continuing to develop our understanding of the number system in Maths and for much of this term we will be focussing on Number - Place Value. In Y1, we start by revising some learning from Reception, for example- number bonds up to 10 and introducing new content for Year 1 such as counting up and back from any number, one more or less than a given number and finding missing numbers in patterns and on number lines. Whilst in Year 2 we are consolidating our understanding of Place Value to 100 and continuing to become fast and fluent when counting in 2s, 5s and 10s - and then 3s...

In Science we will be learning about *Living things and their habitats* - The children will be observing the world around them and through sources such as books, short films and real experiences to help them learn about life process and to identify if something is living, dead or never been alive. Then we will be exploring different habitats; looking at the local micro habitats and seeing what we can find!

We will be thinking about the question "Is it possible to be kind to everyone?" in RE where we will explore the Bible stories that tell of the kindness that Jesus showed and the examples that Christians believe he showed as the son of God.

Our Computing sessions this term will cover many aspects of *ICT* including ways to be safe on the internet before we start our unit on coding.

In DT this term we will be learning about levers and making some of our own moving mechanisms. Some of the children might start talking to you about fulcrums and pivots- this is all part of what we will be learning about.

We will be considering *Being Me in My World* through *PSHE* (Personal, Social, Health Education) where we will consider ourselves as members of Squirrels and Hedgehogs classes and how to be a good learner.

In Music we will be learning a song called *Hands, feet, heart* which is a song that celebrates South African music. We will learn to sing it, move to it, accompany it and maybe even compose our own verses...!

## Reading and Times Tables

This year as your children become more proficient in reading they will move on to our other scheme for reading, which is Accelerated Reader, if you have older children you may already know. Attached to this newsletter is a specific letter about AR which goes into more detail. I will also be talking you through it at the class meeting next week. If your child is on AR when they finish their book the next day they need to bring back in so they can do a short 5 questions quiz to demonstrate their understanding and move on to the next level. The more your child reads, the more they quiz, the better their reading will get and the higher their level will get.

Until your child is ready to move onto this scheme which focuses on vocabulary, comprehension and understanding, your child will remain on phonics books so they are secure in the word reading foundational skills first. We will read with your child in school as often as possible and change their book as needed. Please ensure you are reading the books a few times at home too as in Reception in Year 1 to develop word recognition, speed and fluency. The aim is to change all phonics books weekly on a Wednesday.

## Useful Information

**PE:** This term, PE will be on a **Thursday for Hedgehogs** and **Friday for Squirrels**. At St Mary's, our PE kit should include a burgundy (or white) t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and daps/trainers for outdoor activities - trainers may be more appropriate for outside play. Children are required to come into school already dressed in their kit on their PE day as this has proven successful and effective over the last year. Please can you still make sure all items of clothing are named.

Children will have homework every week which will recap a fundamental skill from English and Maths from that week. We aim to start this homework towards the end of this term.

In Year 1, there will be a heavier focus on phonics and spelling skills. In Year 2, similarly there will be chance for the children to practise all the Year 1 and 2 spellings and to develop their fluency and comprehension skills in reading.

It is really helpful for us and your children when what we have been learning at school is consolidated at home and we are grateful for your support.

## ...and finally

Thank you to everyone who has already connected with Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a way for us to keep in touch and for us to sometimes share news and stories of what we have been up to in class.

Thank you.

Mrs Roberts and Mrs Martin and the Years 1 and 2 Team.