



St Mary and All Saints Church of England Primary School
Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 1RG
Telephone: (01494) 673762 FAX: (01494) 674757



Email: office@stmaryallsaints.co.uk
Website: www.stmaryallsaints.co.uk

An Oxford Diocesan
School

Headteacher

Mrs J Barnett BA (QTS)

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Dear Parent,

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are delighted to welcome you back to the new academic year. This year promises to be a journey filled with learning, growth, and wonderful experiences. This letter includes information about the curriculum areas that the children in Year 2 will be covering this term and information that you will require.

We have many exciting topics in Year 2 and this term there will be two overarching themes of 'Tiger in the Jungle' based on Henri Rousseau's art and 'Christmas is coming'.

Our timetable this term will have an English, Phonics and Mathematics focus during the morning, as in previous years, with foundation subjects taking place during our afternoon lessons. Mondays will be an exception to this when the children will have PE in the morning and English, Phonics and Maths in the afternoon. In addition, throughout the year, your child will take part in curriculum days that enhance their learning experience.

In English we will begin by focusing on Narrative writing, poetry and Instruction writing. In Mathematics we will be working through National Curriculum objectives for Year 2, beginning with a focus on Number and place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and money.

Other topics we will be studying are:

Science	Animals including humans.
History	Christmas through the ages
Geography	Seasonal weather
Computing	E-Safety, Computer Skills, Christmas coding.
Art	Digital jungle art using Picollage, exploring character's feelings using Chatterpix.
D.T.	Mechanisms - Wheels and Axels.
P.E.	Netball, Football, Dance and Gymnastics
R.E.	Who should you follow? Should you wear religious symbols?
Music	Hands, Feet, Heart - celebrating and learning about South African Music.
PSHE	Being Me in My World

Homework

This year homework will be set and submitted on Seesaw. In Year 2 the children will receive the following homework:

English homework will be set on a Tuesday and is expected to be returned by Thursday;
Mathematics homework will be set on a Thursday and is due in on the following Monday.
When required, Foundation Subject homework will be due in one week from being handed out and may be given out once a half term.

Spellings will also be set on Seesaw and tested in class. These will be given to the children on a Friday with a test the following Friday.

We have developed our spelling lists to correspond with the spelling rules the children are being taught in their English lessons. These spellings are split into 3 groups; Must, Should and Could. All children are expected to learn the 'Must' spellings; they will be directed by the class teacher to learn the 'Should' or 'Could' spellings if they are ready, although all children can choose to challenge themselves by learning these should they wish. Any children who find spelling particularly difficult will be given words linked to their phonic phases.

Children will continue working on their Numeracy Passport objectives, which will include weekly times tables tests. They will be expected to practise their times tables regularly at home (2,5,10).

Reading

It is important that **you find ten minutes every day to read with your child and record that you have done so via their reading diary**. We will be keeping track of this in school. Books will be changed on a **Monday and Thursday**. We use two reading pathways so your child will receive one coloured book-band reading book and one phonics based reading book. Once the children reach lime they will receive two coloured reading books and no phonics based reading book. **Children must bring in their reading diaries every day**. Please only write one entry in one box per day.

Please continue to listen to your child read daily, as not only will this aid their learning considerably, it will also increase their enjoyment of reading. Discuss the books that they are reading and encourage your child to choose more challenging literature in order to continue their development.

Our carefully selected suggested reads for Year 2 are as follows:

1. Hodgeheg by Dick King Smith
2. Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book by Lauren Child
3. The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy
4. Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper
5. The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton
6. Not Now, Bernard by David McKee
7. The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl
8. Emily Brown and the Thing by Cressida Cowell
9. Mr Majeika by Humphrey Carpenter
10. Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
11. The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson
12. The 13-storey treehouse by Andy Griffiths

PE and Games

The children will need a full, named PE kit (T-Shirt, shorts, socks, plimsolls/trainers). Both classes will have Games and PE on Monday mornings. Children will be expected to bring in and leave their kits in school for the entire half term. As a reminder, they will be required to wear trainers for outdoor PE. Please ensure that all PE kits are named.

Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Personal social and emotional development (PSED) forms a key part of our curriculum each term. Teaching personal development is vital in many ways. It helps children develop a positive sense of themselves, independence, respect for others, social skills, emotional well-being and a positive disposition to learning.

This term your child will be taught about their place in the world, valuing others, recognising feelings rewards and consequences, choices and right and responsibilities as part of our PSED curriculum. They will also be introduced to, and be asked to reflect on, the following key values through our weekly assembly programme: Trust, Love, Dignity, Generosity, Thankfulness, Joy, Peace, Community and Wisdom. In addition, across the Autumn Term, children will learn about the importance of helping others through our involvement with One Can Trust and our Harvest celebrations and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and our Remembrance Service.

In Autumn 2, all children will take place in 'Anti-Bullying week', a week dedicated to sending a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools and communities. Children are also taught that it is important to tell someone if they are being bullied and how to get help if they find themselves in that position. We also hold our annual, 'Walk To School Week' to help our pupils start to recognise both the health benefits of walking to school and the environmental benefit of having fewer cars on the road.

Pupils in Year 2 will also have the opportunity to develop their self-confidence and public speaking skills this term as they will be learning and reciting poetry in their English Lessons and taking part in our Christmas Nativity. We are really looking forward to this special event as we are sure are you.

Finally, across the school, pupils are given the opportunity to perform key roles to both develop their leadership skills and sense of responsibility or teamwork. These responsibilities increase as children progress through the different year groups. In Year 2 pupils take on the following whole school roles:

- School council – as voted for by their peers
- Playground Monitors
- Classroom Monitors

Please keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter as that will provide further details of the above events and also detail additional opportunities that the children at SMAS experience as part of our PSED Curriculum and school vision.

If you ever wish to discuss anything about your child, please make an appointment through the office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McAulay, Ms Lee, Miss Lucas
Y2 Class Teachers