



St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is lovely to see all of the children back and raring to go at the start of this academic year. We are writing to inform you about what we will be learning this term as well as introducing the staff working in phase 2.

Meet The Team:

Phase Two consists of six classes; Finches (Year 2), Swallows (Year 2), Oak (Year 3), Birch (Year 3), Sycamore (Year 4) and Ash (Year 4). The six teachers in this Phase are Miss Edden (Swallows), Miss Maddison (Finches), Miss Light (Oak), Miss Garwood (Birch), Miss McGuirk (Sycamore) and Mrs Padley (Year 4). We also are very lucky to have Miss Morris, Mrs Townsend, Mrs Molloy, Mrs Winter, Mrs Rea, Miss Doherty, Mrs Stokes and Mrs Pope working within these classrooms. Please feel free to see any of the staff if you have any questions concerning your children and their learning.

Learning Narrative:

In Year Three our curriculum will be a Story Telling based curriculum and a story will be the thread of our learning throughout the year. This term our Learning will be based around the theme of 'Belonging'. The Year 3 Learning Narrative can be found on the school website.

Homework:

Reading

Each week the children are expected to read **at least 4 times** to an adult at home as well as practising their 'Beat That Maths Challenge' and completing their MyMaths tasks which will be set online each week. The children's MyMaths logins are attached (these have not changed from last year).

It is really important that the children are heard to read as much as possible to improve their fluency and comprehension, as well as this having a positive impact on their writing. This year children will be allowed to take home their Accelerated Reader (AR) book. These books must come back into school everyday as they are also the children's class reading books, which they will take a quiz on, in school once they have finished reading the book.

Beat That Maths Challenge.

As you are aware, times tables are a vital part of your children's education and the best way to learn them is to practise, practise and then practise some more! We do cover times tables in class but practising saying their tables aloud and answering quick fire recall questions is the best way for your child to learn their tables by heart!

The children will have a grid of different rapid recall calculations that they will need to complete in 2 minutes. The following week they will complete the grid again, with the aim to beat the score that they achieved the previous week. **The children will need to practice their rapid recall of these facts each week at home.** We have attached the grid that your child is currently working on. We have also provided a list of good websites, which will help your child improve these rapid recall skills. Times table websites encourage children to apply what they have learnt and facilitate their rapid recall of multiplication facts. Some good examples are:

<http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/online/moonmaths.swf>

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.html>

<http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/tm/tmgame/tgame2.html>

<http://www.primarygames.co.uk/PG5/Eggs/Multi/eggsmult.html>

Home Learning Project

The children also have project work that they can complete during this half term. The idea of their project work is that it promotes independent learning and thinking. The children are encouraged to work on their projects throughout the half term and then bring them into school before we break up for half term. The expectation is that the children choose 2 projects to complete. It would be lovely if you could encourage the children to challenge themselves, encouraging them to use their growth mindset. Now the children are in Year Three they may wish to do more than two pieces of work! Some ideas for this project are:

- **Design a board game with an animal or plant theme**
- **Make a food diary for an animal of their choice**
- **Take a picture of an object and label all the forces in action**
- **Create a plant diary**
- **Design a garden for different members of the community**
- **Make a model of an animal's skeleton and label the different bones.**
- **Produce an information leaflet about caring for different pets.**
- **Find an extinct creature and explore why it is extinct. Produce an information leaflet.**
- **Write an information guide about how to belong**
- **Write an information guide for somebody new joining the school**
- **Create an identification key for different animals footprints.**
- **Take photographs of evidence of different animals.**
- **Write a story from the point of view of their pet.**
- **Carry out an investigation to show forces at work**
- **Make an aerodynamic vehicle and test it in different conditions**

If the children think of any more ideas then they can do these.

Forest:

For this half-term **Birch Class** will visit the Forest on a Friday Morning. The children need to come to school in their forest clothes (clothes that you don't mind getting dirty) for this morning and bring their school uniform into school so they can change into this. (Oak class will have forest school after half-term). Could you also please make sure that the children come to school with a suitable waterproof coat. The children also need to bring in their wellies and take them home after forest school as we are unable to store them all in school.

P.E:

Oak: PE for this term is on a Wednesday and Friday.

Birch: PE for this term is on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Please make sure that the children have the correct P.E kits in school for these days.

This should include:

- Black shorts
- T-shirt based on the children's family learning group
- Tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to remind you that we operate an open door policy and if you do have any queries or questions please feel free to contact your child's class teacher at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Thanking you in advance,

Emily Light and Emily Garwood