

# St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

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**Headteacher: Justin Murray**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. We hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Our topic this half term is called 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' where our focus will be on 'Light and Dark'. This will involve learning about nocturnal animals, Bonfire night, Diwali, Advent and then finally Christmas. We will be sharing the texts 'Owl Babies', 'Whatever Next', 'Stick Man', 'The Colour Monster' and other books which relate to our topic. The children will take part in a range of fun activities surrounding these topics. Daily Maths and Phonics will run alongside this. Attached to this letter is our topic web which highlights the skills we are focusing on this term.

## **Visits & Visitors**

This week we were fortunate to be visited by PC Dan Sibun. He talked to the children about how to keep themselves safe. He was so impressed with the children's knowledge and how they sat and listened.

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Owls About Town will be coming for the morning to teach us lots about owls. We will have the opportunity to watch them fly around the hall and to hold one of his owls too. A letter will be sent out shortly.

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November we will be having our Remembrance Service at the church. If you are available to accompany the class on our walk to the church, please message via Class Dojo. We will be setting off around 9am. We will also be visiting St Mary's church on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November along with Oliver Class to support our learning around Advent and Christmas. Again, if you are available to help with this visit please let us know, we will be setting off at 1:15pm.

## **Here are a few reminders for the half term!**

### **Afternoon Snack**

Please keep sending in an afternoon fruit/vegetable snack. The children have really enjoyed this social time and it keeps them going for the afternoon!

### **Water**

Please make sure your child has a water bottle in school every day. Also a reminder that it is water only in bottles and not juice.

### **Forest School and PE**

Forest School will continue on Tuesdays and PE will take place on Fridays. PE will be in the hall and our focus will be gymnastics. As the weather is getting colder, please ensure you dress your child appropriately for Forest School i.e. hats, gloves, extra layers etc.

### **Phonics**

The children will continue to take part in daily phonic lessons. Please support us by looking at your child's red book with them to reinforce the sound that has been taught in school. Please can you revise all the previously taught sounds too as some children are still not recognising all of them. Just a reminder at this stage of the year, the children should be able to recognise by sight at least 16 sounds.

### **Reading at Home**

This half term we will be sending home reading books for your child to share with you. Please try and find time to read at least three times a week with them. It doesn't have to be for long. Even just five minute short bursts are invaluable. Don't forget to record any books you read together in your child's reading record so that we can count up the number of reads. Remember, for every 20 reads, your child will receive a certificate and medal. They will also move their rocket on our reading display in the classroom.

**Grid Words**

This half term, we will be sending home 'Grid Words' for your child to learn at home. These will be stapled in your child's reading record. Once your child knows them please drop us a message via Class Dojo or write a message in their reading record and we will go through the words with them. If they are secure with the words, we give them the next set of words to learn and they will receive a prize from the prize bag.

**Wow Wall**

Please continue sharing via Class Dojo or sending in photographs, certificates, pictures/writing/drawings your child does at home. Please send in anything that makes the children feel proud of themselves.

**Christmas Nativity**

As part of our learning about the first Christmas, the children will be performing in a nativity performance with Year 1 and 2. Our concert 'A Miracle in Town!' will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Details regarding tickets will be given out nearer the time.

**Decorating Afternoon**

As a school tradition, we will be holding a Christmas decorating afternoon. We invite you to join your child on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 2:15pm to make a decoration for our classroom. It's a lovely opportunity for you to come into the classroom and spend time together on a Christmas craft.

**Details of what we are making will be given out nearer the time.**

If you have any queries, questions or worries please get in contact with us via Class Dojo or you can contact the office for anything more urgent.

Here's to another happy and fun half term ahead!

Kind regards,

**Mrs Anderson, Mrs Black and Mrs Mitchell**