

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a lovely summer holiday and enjoyed the extremes of weather. We have to give our children credit, and say a huge thank you to you, for how brilliantly they have all come back, and how settled they all are. We are really looking forward to the term ahead and the exciting things that we have lined up for your children.

Religious Education (RE)

This term we will be studying the three themes of Domestic Church (Family), Baptism and Confirmation (Belonging) and Advent and Christmas (Loving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics. The children will also spend a day studying various aspects of Judaism.

Suggestion for home activities:

Domestic Church - Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles etc. who show God’s love. Include those who have died. Write underneath it - **“We show God’s love to one another.”**

Baptism and Confirmation - Talk to someone who has been to a Baptism and/or Confirmation about their memories of this celebration.

Advent and Christmas - Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home. Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree. Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.

English

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) - We will be starting with a strong focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, in order to improve your child’s writing as much as possible. We aim to give children a variety of opportunities to practise their existing SPaG knowledge and to gain/fill the gaps by learning new SPaG skills.

For spellings in Year 6, the children will be consolidating their knowledge of spelling rules and ensure that they are familiar with and able to use the list of Year 5 and Year 6 spellings. The children will start the week by learning the concept and will be given opportunities during the week to consolidate their learning. Children will be tested on the spellings every Friday.

Reading - We will be drawing from the Second World War theme for our reading this term. Our English novel will be ‘Goodnight Mr. Tom’ by Michelle Magorian. We will be reading this as a class and be using it as a focus during writing. We will practise summarising key events, identifying important details and using quotations to explain and elaborate our thinking during our daily Guided Reading sessions. We work to use a ‘slow reveal’ process in English so we ask that you don’t buy the book and your child read ahead.

It is vital that your child continues to read every day at home. The expectation is that the child reads for at least fifteen minutes a day. Please make time to hear them read a few pages and chat with them about their current book. Please ensure the reading is recorded and signed in the planner.

Writing - We will be using ‘Goodnight Mr. Tom’ as a stimulus to write play scripts, narratives and poetry. We will study the use of language in a variety of genres, including historical narratives. We will learn about using adverbs, preposition phrases and expanded noun phrases effectively to add detail and precision to our writing.

Maths

Topics covered during the Autumn term include:

- Place value and negative numbers
- Formal method of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Fractions
- Position and direction

Ensure that children are fluent in times tables up to 12 x 12.

Children will continue to enhance their mental strategies for all operations including being able to add and subtract 3-digit numbers rather than using a written method.

Children can use TTRS to help them learn their times tables at home.

Maths skills tasks will be set on IXL for children to complete at least one, weekly.

Theme

Our Year 6 curriculum theme for Autumn term is '**A Child's War**'.

History - Children will investigate significant historical events that have happened during the Second World War. In Year 6, we will focus on the Holocaust and the Battle of Britain. Children will investigate how we know about the past, particularly when out of living memory. They will learn about different sources such as artefacts, memories, photos and books, what we can learn from them and how reliable they might be.

Geography - Children will find out about physical and human features of the UK. We will use primary and secondary sources of evidence to investigate. To further develop geographical enquiry skills, we will select maps for specific reasons and use atlases to find out about features of places.

Art/DT – Children will learn to use a range of materials to construct a miniature Anderson shelter. They will also learn to make a paper Spitfire aircraft and be learning to make wartime food.

Learning Log: Children will be given a selection of activities linked to their Theme, which offer opportunities to practise different skills. Children must complete at least one per half term and bring in evidence at the end of the half term.

Computing

In Year 6, we will begin our Computing curriculum with an internet safety unit. Children will recap their knowledge of how to keep themselves and others safe online, how to ensure their information stays private and where to go if they need help with online issues. They will continue to use Purple Mash to develop their knowledge of writing coded instructions and debugging programmes to discover how computer language is written. Children will also be learning to use spreadsheets towards the end of the term.

MFL – Spanish

We are delighted to share with you that, each week, the children at St Gregory's from Nursery to Year 6, will all have one lesson of Spanish taught by Mrs Neal-Gonzalez; a fluent Spanish speaker. We are excited to be able to offer this provision to all our pupils this academic year.

Music

We will be using Charanga to learn to learn about rhythms and beats during our Music lessons. The children will be learning to sing wartime songs and will be composing their own wartime songs.

PE

PE is timetabled for every Thursday afternoon. The focus will be on 'fundamental movement skills' such as running, jumping, coordination, agility, balance and throwing. The children will develop their motor skills through this practice. Children can sign up to attend multi-sports club after school.

PSHE

Children will be focusing on e-safety, about rights and responsibilities and legal and illegal drugs. Children will explore the risks of using drugs and coping with peer pressure. They will be able to discuss issues about bullying and how to prevent it from happening.

Science

Children will be learning about light and electricity. Optical illusions and shadows are also part of this unit of work. Children will use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them. They will also learn to compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches.

Home Learning

Home Learning is given out on Friday and is expected back by the following Wednesday. Homework given in after this time is considered late. There will usually be a set piece for Maths and English, based on our weekly learning. There will also be a home learning piece of homework set once per term, based on our termly topic. Children will also be given weekly spellings and are expected to practise times tables and use IXL to supplement their learning. Occasionally, there may be other short pieces to complete on Purple Mash, Times Tables Rockstars or for Science. The children will be given information about this in their planners each week.

Please remember to check your child's Home-School Link Book each day and sign it weekly. We expect children to bring it into school every day without fail, in preparation for secondary school routines. Thank you for your continued support.

We are really looking forward to working in partnership with you and look forward to seeing you at Parents' Evening later in the term.

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Williams and Ms. Sundaralingam