

SUMMER 1 TERM IN HAWTHORN

WELCOME BACK

How is it possible we are 2/3 of the way through the children's last year at St Mark and All Saints?

As we start this busy and important term, I would like to remind you that I can be contacted daily in the playground, and by email at office@Stmarkallsaints.uk. I'm looking forward to a fantastic term, and celebrating your child's achievement achievements in just a few month's time!

READING

In preparation for the end of Key Stage assessment we will be looking a fresh text every day this term, exploring them and thinking about the sorts of questions we might be asked to answer.

We will be practicing maintaining pace in test conditions, and how we can get the big marks from tricky questions.

END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENTS 2024

Year 6 will taking their end of Key Stage Assessments (SATs) in the first half of summer term. These will be the first formal assessments they have participated in, due to COVID interruption of their Year 2 Assessments. A guide to SATs week can be found on page three of this newsletter.

WRITING

in writing we will be changing the model for learning for the term, and instead be focusing a different style of writing each week. Exploring a range of genre, including non-chronological reports, story writing, report writing and poetry we will explore the many differences in style in a quest to show off everything we have learnt over our time at St Mark and All Saints.

MATHS

Maths in Summer 1 focuses on shape, space and positioning, and data handling. Children will learn about the calculation and recognition of angles, before learning how to draw a range of shapes accurately.

Supporting their preparation for the End of Key Stage assessments, we will also be practicing the key methods for calculation including finding percentages of whole numbers, and adding and subtracting mixed number fractions.

Quick recall of times tables remains a challenge and we would be grateful if you could continue to work on these with your child.

SCIENCE

In science we will be focusing on electricity. The children will be exploring the impact of varying the voltage in circuits they have built and experimenting with different components.



Geography

In geography we will be learning about Rivers. Initially we will look at how rivers are formed before exploring their impact, on human life. We will then use our knowledge in a geographical study of the River Thames.

RE

In RE we will be looking at Islam, with the goal of understanding how their faith helps Muslims to live a good life.

Continuing from previous learning on Islam in lower years, we will explore what is important to Muslims and its impact on their daily lives.



PE

With the coming of the better weather (we hope!) the focus in PE will shift to athletics. Please ensure that children are dressed appropriately on Mondays and Wednesdays, and leave all jewellery at home.

Art

In art we will be learning the skills of turning 2D images into 3D images. Exploring shading, detailing and a host of other techniques, children will develop an important artistic skill to take into their secondary education.

PSHE

PSHE in Summer 1 focuses on the relationships we build with other people. With a focus on friendship, we will look at how to make and maintain friendships, and how to resolve the difficulties that are an inevitable part of all relationships.

ONLINE SAFETY

As your children grow older we know of the pressure on them (and you!) for them to be online using social media. We are aware that children in Year 6 are using social media to communicate, and we regularly see first-hand the damage that is happening when they use apps such as WhatsApp. Such apps are not equipped with the safety features that would make them appropriate for primary aged children. For your information I have included the age restrictions for many of the common apps that children access and use, against their terms and conditions of use.

Social Media Age Restrictions

Under 13 (with parental consent)	13 +	16+	18+	18 (13 with parental permission)
GoBuddle PopJam GROM SOOIL	Facebook Instagram Tumblr Twitter Skype iTunes Pinterest MyOL Wink Snapchat TikTok reddit ASKm	WhatsApp Telegram 17+	Meow Chat Meet Me Tinder	flickr YouTube Spotify

For more information: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/?gclid=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlalQobChMI5KJoO-UhQMVypROBh0ltQFBAAAYASAAEgLT8_D_BwE&gclid=aw.ds#advice

Our school e-safety policy can be found at: https://www.stmarkallsaints.uk/files/ugd/9f75bc_65ff9e7957134772bf1b1f270e10f29c.pdf

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

There is a noticeable, and understandable, trend that as the children move up the school, parents take up the invitation to attend celebration assembly a lot less.

I hope you will forgive me for using this opportunity to bust a myth that the Year 6 children aren't bothered whether their parents come or not.

I appreciate there are so many reasons why parents can't make it, but if you are free, we (and they) would love to see you even if they pretend otherwise.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 15th April

INSET Day - School closed.

Tuesday 16th April

Return to school

Tuesday 23rd February

Drama Visit to Edgeborough School

W/C 13th May

End of Key Stage Assessments

Monday 20th May

Satro Electricity Workshop

Friday 24th May

INSET Day

Celebration Assembly is celebrated every Friday at 9.00am

END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENTS 2024

In May, your child will sit the assessments for the end of Key Stage 2. These assessments are set by the Government and are compulsory. The assessments will be set as part of the normal school day.

SATS Breakfast

On each of the assessment days, all children in Year 6 will be invited to attend school from 8.00am for a special SATs breakfast.

This has been very successful in previous years in allowing the children to have a calm and collegiate breakfast with their peers, without the distractions of siblings etc.

Breakfast usually includes treats including pain au chocolat, croissants, cereals and a range of jams, honey and spreads; as well as fruit juice.

There is no cost to parents attached to this.

Assessment Dates

Monday:	Spelling Punctuation and Grammar
Tuesday:	Reading
Wednesday:	Maths (Paper 1 and 2)
Thursday:	Maths (Paper 3)

Are SATs important?

Yes and no. As a formal assessment of the learning over four years, we want the children to do their very best so they can be proud of what they have achieved. They are however, far from a 'be all and end all' situation, and we do not want them to cause undue stress in the learners.

Why are there Tests at End of Key Stage 2?

The end of Key Stage 2 tests are mandatory and set by the government. The government give the following reasons for testing in Key Stage Two:

"The tests help measure the attainment of pupils in relation to the standards set out in the national curriculum, and help teachers and parents identify where pupils may need additional support in a certain subject area. The tests are also used to assess schools' performance, and school-level results data is used to produce national and regional performance statistics."

Attendance and Punctuality

To ensure that the events run calmly and smoothly for the children, we would appreciate if extra effort can be made to ensure children arrive punctually.

In the event you are going to be late or your child is ill, early contact with the school would be appreciated so that we can plan accordingly.

Health and Wellbeing

Some children (like many adults) will naturally find the prospect of tests worrying or stress-inducing. A little worry is entirely normal and can be highly beneficial however we are being extra-vigilant to identify any children who may be experiencing undue levels of worry. Please do let us know if you feel your child is experiencing above normal levels of worry.

What can I do to help my child?

These assessments are a check of knowledge accrued over four years. Excessive preparation is not necessary or expected.

We will be providing some short tasks over Easter and into the new term; your support with encouraging children to do them would be appreciated.

What are the possible results of the tests and how will they affect my child?

As a result of the tests your child will be given a score in each of the subjects tested. The score will be between 80 and 120 and will indicate the following:

Less than 100: Your child is working below the expected level for someone of their age.

100 or more: Your child is working at the expected level for a child of their age.

110 or more: Your child is working at a greater depth level for a child of their age.

As a formal test, the scores will be reported to the Government and can be accessed by their secondary schools who may use them to plan for provision in September. In my experience they are just one of many indicators (including their own assessments in September) that are used to plan their provision in Key Stage 3.