

SUMMER 1 TERM IN HAWTHORN

WELCOME BACK

Can you believe we are now $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way through the children's last year at St Mark and All Saints! Whilst they are understandably all focussing on their SATS currently, and probably feeling a little nervous, there are lots of things to look forward to this term and for the rest of this year.

SCIENCE

In science, we begin our extended unit on Electricity, deepening previous understanding, by building and investigating increasingly complex circuits. We will explore how components such as bulbs, buzzers, motors, wires, and switches function, and how changing variables—like the number of cells or the length of wires—affects the brightness or speed within a circuit. With a focus on key scientific vocabulary, we will draw and interpret circuit diagrams using standard symbols, and apply knowledge to solve practical problems.

MATHS

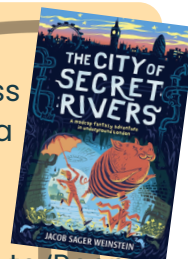
Maths in Summer 1 focuses on shape, space and positioning, and data handling. Children will learn about the calculation and recognition of angles, before learning how to draw a range of shapes accurately.

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

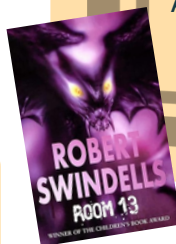
Quick recall of times tables remains a challenge and we would be grateful if you could continue to work on these with your child.

READING

We have been enjoying our class novel 'The city of secret rivers,' a hilarious modern day fantasy adventure, set in London.



After this, we will move on to 'Room 13,' a gripping page-turner from a master of spooky suspense, award-winning Robert Swindells



WRITING

This half term we head back to a narrative writing focus, using the short animation 'Alma' as a hook. It is a dark narrative about a young girl who is tempted inside a mysterious shop full of dolls.' This story is always popular with Year 6, and promises to give lots of fantastic writing opportunities; practicing varied sentences, using tone and mood to describe settings, characters and atmosphere, integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action.



RE

In RE we will be finding out more about how, for Christians, belonging to God's Kingdom makes a difference to their everyday lives. This unit will help pupils to understand that most Christians believe they are called to live in a distinctive way. Pursuing justice, seeking reconciliation and serving others are all biblical commandments, which serve to shape this distinctive life and lead many Christians to undertake action in the world.

History

In history we will be studying an important topic recognising and celebrating the contributions of Black Britons to the development and success of British society. It is a common misconception that those with African heritage have only been in Britain for the last few hundred years, a result of the slave trade. In fact the role and contributions of Black people to British society goes back so much further than that, with notable examples as far back as Roman times. This myth-busting unit will allow us to explore British history over 2000 years, and the much over-looked contributions of Black British.

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.

PSHE

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

DT

This term, we will design, make and evaluate an electric system to create an alarming vehicle. The children will be taught the difference between 'structure' and 'function' when thinking of a design; they will then explore if their design is fit for purpose when they make it. Lastly, they will be able to evaluate their alarming system and make changes accordingly. This unit is strongly linking to our unit of work in science 'electricity'.



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)
GoBubble PopJam GROW SOCIAL	Facebook Instagram Tumblr Twitter skype iTunes Pinterest MyLOL Wink Snapchat TikTok reddit ASKfm	WhatsApp Telegram 17+	Meow Chat Meet Me Tinder	flickr YouTube Spotify

For more information:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-sa>

HOMEWORK

Currently, all homework is set online. The expectation is that this is done in their own time at home wherever possible please. Though we do understand there are times where this is not possible and we will provide a homework club for those occasions needed.

Please do support and encourage your child to do their homework; it is an important habit to get in to in preparation for secondary school, where the expectations are often daily and rigorous.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

4.5.26 - OPEN CLASSROOMS (2.45PM)
11-15.5.26 - SATS WEEK (SATs BREAKFAST 8AM)
18.5.26 - FOSMAS SPONSORED OBSTACLE COURSE
21.5.26 - FOSMAS MOVIE NIGHT (YR3-6)
22.5.26 - INSET DAY
25-29.5.26 - HALF TERM

1.6.25 - INSET DAY
3-5.6.26 - YR 6 RESIDENTIAL TO CALSHOT



END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENTS 2026

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 (Mon-Thurs), all children in Year 6 will be invited to attend school from 8.00 am for a special SATs breakfast.

This has been very successful in previous years allowing the children to have a calm and chatty breakfast with their friends – hopefully relieving a bit of anxiety first thing in the morning.

Breakfast usually includes treats such as pain au chocolat, croissants, toast 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 11th May: Spelling, Punctuation + Grammar

Tuesday 12th May: Reading

Wednesday 13th May: Maths (Paper 1 and 2)

Thursday 14th May: 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 it if everyone makes an extra effort to be in school on time.

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 for them to sit their test separately when they arrive or are back in school. Please note that until that point they will – according to statutory guidance – need to be kept separate from the rest of the class.

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 beneficial however we will be keeping a close eye on the children to make sure they aren't experiencing too much worry. Please do let us know if you become concerned.

What can I do to help my child?

These assessments are a check of knowledge gained over four years.

We are encouraging the children to complete short tasks daily on Spag.com and Maths.co.uk at home to keep their memories fresh with all that knowledge they have learned. Please give them support and reminders to do this

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 our 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.