



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

Brockley Park, Forest Hill, London SE23 1PS

Tel: 020 8690 2842

Email: admin@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Mayers **Admin Officer:** Mrs Joanne Roper

Acting Deputy Head: Ms Zoe Thorn

17th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, Mr Wilkie and I would like to thank you all so much for your generosity at Christmas; we were truly touched. The children have returned full of enthusiasm and are settling in to the responsibilities of this busy transition year. This term's topic focuses on WW2, beginning with the Rise of Hitler and moving on to the key events of the war and 'The Homefront'. As always, I will endeavour to handle this topic sensitively and respectfully but please do talk to your children about what they are learning at school and encourage open and honest conversations. If you have any worries, please do contact me. I am encouraging the children to read as much Historical fiction - as well as non-fiction texts - on the topic, in order to deepen their understanding; this will enable them to write well in both English and History. Please look at the Topic Map which I have attached, for more information on this and the other areas of the curriculum. I have booked a visit to the Imperial War Museum on Wednesday 26th March and will need some parent volunteers to accompany us. Letters will be sent out after half-term but do let me know if you are able to help.

I cannot overemphasise the importance of sticking to a regular routine for homework. Aside from the impact it will have on your children's learning, it is good preparation for the rigours of secondary school next year. Please encourage your child to do a little on days it suits your family rather than a lot in one go. Children are expected to read at home for *at least* 20 minutes every day – in addition to reading a page or so to you so that you can discuss their reading with them. They will have the opportunity to change their reading books whenever they complete a book, which should be in their book bag every day along with their reading records. There will also be some homework given over the half-term and Easter holidays in preparation for the SATs.

Monday: Mental Arithmetic homework is due (One Test: A, B & C per week).

Thursday: English Skills homework is due (One Test: A, B & C per week)

Friday: Reading Journals are shared and the weekly spelling test is taken (Record x3 per week).

PE lessons continue on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and so they must ensure that their full PE kit is in school on those days; they should not wear trainers to school on PE days though – these must be kept in their PE kits. Children must be able to remove earrings prior to PE.

We have scheduled parents' meetings on Wednesday 5th and Wednesday 12th March to discuss your child's progress and targets, however, if you have urgent queries about any aspect of your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office or directly at swebster@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Webster
St William of York

English

Our first half-term's Guided Reading text will be chapters from *Black and British* by David Olusoga as well as some poetry from WW2. We will read an abridged version of the *Diary of Anne Frank* and a moving picture book called *Rose Blanche* as we begin our study of WW2. The writing focus will be biographies and children will be encouraged to write about a family member if possible. Our writing focus will be persuasive letters and so I will be encouraging the children to choose a local issue that they feel passionately about. Some historical fiction set during WW2. After half term, Our Guided Reading text will be *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll, which is a mystery set in World War 2. Grammar will involve recapping gaps from previous years and consolidating year 6 grammar, such as colons, semi-colons, the perfect tense and passive voice. The children should become more independent about editing and improving their writing this term. Spellings will focus on accurately applying Y5 & 6 words in writing and will be set as homework each Friday on Purple Mash.

History

World War 2 will be the main focus of the first half term, exploring the politics, events, people and places that were involved. The first half-term will focus on events in Germany that enabled the Rise of Hitler and the NAZI party.

In Spring 2, We will look at life on the Homefront during WW2 –for evacuees - but also look at some unsung heroes from 'the Empire' by reading Bali Rai's *Now or Never*. Please encourage the children to find out about any of their great grandparents' experiences during the war. We will hear from a WW2 veteran when we visit the IWM in March.

Computing

This year, Year 6 will be using chromebooks during their computing lessons. They will continue to use google drive to publish and present their writing projects. We will learn about online safety and best practise when gaming or using the internet. In Spring 2, we are going to design and build our own websites, linked to our topic.



Maths

As we move through the spring term, the children will extend previous learning about Decimals before making links with fractions and percentages. We will then be covering Ratio and proportion followed by Algebra. As always, children are encouraged to use a range of concrete materials, manipulatives and pictorial representations to aid and enhance their understanding. Following this, we will explore area, perimeter and volume for a couple of weeks before concluding with a unit on Statistics. In order to ensure that children are secure with the Year 6 written calculation methods, we will continue our weekly arithmetic quizzes, addressing gaps as they arise. Times tables should now be fast and fluent, so please encourage TTRS practice at home.

Year 6

Topic:

Friend or Foe

Teacher:

Sam Webster

Art & Design

We will work with Bow Arts Consortium and artist Nicole Morris on a textile project over three days. Our focus artist this term is the sculptor, Henry Moore; focusing on Moore's tube shelter drawings from the 1940s, the children will explore tone and use a variety of drawing media. We will continue to use our sketchbooks to develop skills in mark-making and mixed media.

Science

Year 6 will begin our Light topic, investigating how light travels, how we see and explaining why shadows have the same shape as the objects casting them. We will also explore the effects of light pollution.

The second half of the term will be about fossils, extending learning from Year 3 and variation in readiness for further learning on evolution in the Summer term.

PE

Outdoor PE lessons are on Thursday and indoor PE on Tuesday. Please ensure children wear their PE kits on those days. Indoor PE will be fitness and handball in Spring 2. Outdoor PE will be netball, followed by tennis.

RE

In RE, children will be learning about the structure and importance of religious texts, particularly the Bible. Together, we will fine tune our referencing skills and our understanding of the significance of different readings, prayers and hymns. As part of our curriculum looking at other faiths, we will explore the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Homework

Children will continue to be set weekly Mathematics tasks and spellings on Purple Mash. It is vital that children continue to read every day so do please support them in this. They should also complete one test per week in their Mental Arithmetic and English Skills booklet. There will be some homework given over the half-term and Easter in preparation for SATs.