



Learning at St Mary's Church of England Primary School

A Guide for Parents and Carers

At St Mary's we 'Dream with all our mind, Believe with all our heart and Achieve with all our might because with God All Things Are Possible!'
Matthew 19:26

Introduction

St Mary's is a safe, happy and welcoming place, based on Christian principles, where we care for each other, grow together, follow our dreams and aspire for excellence in all we do. Individuals are given opportunities to recognise their self-worth and use their sense of belief to allow them to achieve whatever they set their mind to. Learners are encouraged to 'dream and believe' through self-reflection and recognise achievements in themselves and others. Learners understand that they can accomplish their potential when working collaboratively in many different contexts.

The Curriculum Experiences at St Mary's

We work hard to create a rich, relevant and up to date curriculum for all of our children. This is within the orders of the National Curriculum and EYFS curriculum, but also encompasses local connections with historical places of interest, and sporting and outdoor / adventurous resources. This aims to give children an excellent sense of place and open up possibilities for them for future development of skills and potential careers.

Reading, Spelling, Number Bonds and Times Tables

In order for children to make good progress in all areas of their learning they need to be able to read. Understandably, St Mary's places great emphasis on learning to read, particularly, but not exclusively through the use of phonics. Bug Club Phonics is used to teach the children from Foundation Stage onwards. We expect all children to complete 5 reads per week. This can be from their reading books but other sources are also acceptable. Any reads at home need recording in your child's reading diary which is checked by the class teacher. In Foundation, it is imperative that the children learn any flash words given as part of their 5 reads.

Spelling lists are sent home from years 1-6, it is vital that parents support their child in learning the spellings set out in the National Curriculum and those key spellings linked to any topics studied.

Number bonds and times-tables are also essential for children to begin to get a good grasp of number patterns. These will be sent home on a weekly basis where appropriate.

Creative Home Learning is based around a topic 'Knowledge Organiser' in KS 1 and 2. Children will initially learn facts from their Knowledge Organiser about their topic. Knowledge organisers are sent home so that you can support your child with learning key facts within their topic. During lessons the children will then apply their knowledge to develop their learning further across a range of subjects. Creative learning is an opportunity for children to be more creative, develop skills in a cross-curricular way and understand their topic in greater depth. There is a minimum requirement of **two** pieces of work over the term. Creative homework does not mean that the children have to 'make something' each term as teachers provide a variety of choice including writing activities as well as practical activities. **Creative Homework and Knowledge Organisers can be found on our website under the Year Group pages. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's Class teacher. A full copy of the homework policy is also available on our website under Key Information / Policies.** We expect essential homework to be completed to a good standard and any not completed from Year 1 upwards, will be expected to be completed in school. Optional homework will be celebrated in class and during our Well Done assemblies.

Helping your Child to be Organised

An important way to help support your child is to help them to be organised. Make sure that they wear the correct named PE kit on their PE days, bring a coat when needed and wear suitable footwear, which complies with the school uniform policy. Check when homework is to be returned and make sure that your child has it in their folder on the required day.

The school struggles to find room for bags in school, as 'cloakrooms' are corridors. We would ask that you do not allow children to bring bags as this causes serious congestion.

Communication with Parents

At St Mary's we firmly believe that learning is a partnership and we strive to communicate effectively with parents and carers through a variety of channels-Twitter, letters and text messages are used predominantly. Our website is regularly updated and contains essential information. If you cannot find something that you need, please contact the office about this.

Please check our website for the rolling programmes of study for each year group so that you can talk to your child about what they are studying.

A Guide for Parents and Carers

In summary, your role as the parent / carer in your child's learning journey is to:

- Support your child by reading with them and to them, at least 5 times a week. Encourage them to read independently and talk to them about their reading.
- Make sure that your child wears the correct school uniform and PE kit on the correct days. Check the website for details of what is required.
- Regularly check your child's homework so that they are supported.
- Help your child by testing them regularly in a fun way on current topics, spellings, maths and any past units of work. This will help your child commit knowledge to their long-term memory.

