



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new term. We are delighted to be here and very much hope that you and your child are beginning to settle back into school routines. To ensure things run effectively this year we hope the following information is useful and will give you a better picture of how you can help your child to make the most of their last year at Holy Trinity before moving on to secondary school.

Curriculum

SATs testing will go ahead in May 2027. You may wish to see for yourself the sample tests the Government have published so that you can see how best to support your child. If so, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-2016-sample-materials>

The expectations are high and, with a lot still to cover before the examinations in May, the pace is fast.

To prepare them appropriately, in English we will be teaching formal grammar lessons as well as exploring a range of genres in reading and writing sessions.

'Macbeth' is our first key text, with themes which are often studied at GCSE level. Our focus is on the plot although we do look at some Shakespearian language as part of our study. We make use of the BBC teach videos and some adapted texts which are appropriate to the Year 6 age range. Previous years have loved exploring the story and generated some brilliantly creative writing from it.

SATs reading comprehension can be particularly challenging, so reading remains a key focus in Year 6 and at school we like to expose the children to complex texts. At home, you can help us by exposing your child to a range of reading material. Along with their reading book, do they ever pick up a newspaper or could you subscribe to a child's magazine? Pupils are allowed to borrow books from our class bookshelf (as some have already), as long as these are returned. We hope that by talking about, and giving them a variety of texts, plays, poems, journals, fiction, non-fiction, they will become increasingly enthused and engaged with reading.

In Maths we will be consolidating place value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, division and multiplication). We will also consolidate basic skills like times tables fluency. If your child cannot recall times tables at speed it is essential that they practise these at home. This year there will be an even greater emphasis on investigative maths in order to deepen their understanding of a range of topics.

In Science our first topic will be Light. In Humanities, we will focus on crime and punishment through the ages. In Religious Education we will be considering the relevance of saints, what they mean to certain people and how they have been revered. The children will continue to be taught Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), and how to play the steel pans in Music. In Art we will be looking at photography and how photos can be edited. In PSHE we start with a focus on 'My Healthy Self' and in PE the class will start by taking part in football and touch rugby sessions. Please refer to the school uniform policy for what is and isn't permitted as PE kit. Should particular kit be needed for future PE sessions we will communicate this to you in a timely fashion. The children will be using their Computing skills to enhance the whole curriculum in a number of ways, with an introductory focus being on internet safety, before we look at our term topic which is the history of computers, code-breaking and the significance of Bletchley Park, which we aim to visit in December. As always, when using the internet, the children are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe. Perhaps you could help us by reinforcing this message at home.

With so much happening, it promises to be a busy yet exciting term.

Reading

Your child has been given a new reading/homework diary in which they will keep a record of their daily reading. It is a really important note book and we do ask that it is looked after. The children understand that they take it home every evening and bring it back to school the next day having recorded the reading they have done. It is the expectation that they read at home every night whenever possible. Children benefit enormously from shared reading, including discussing the contents of a book, language, punctuation, characters' reactions, plot etc. Please help with this and feel free to record any comments you have about your child's reading/comprehension in their reading diary. This is a book for your use too.

Homework

Homework tasks will continue to be set on Google Classroom. You and your child will hopefully be very familiar with this platform. Tasks and worksheets will also be uploaded onto Google Classroom. Should you wish to print the sheets, you may do so. They can then be completed and stuck into the homework book. However, your child can also refer to the sheet on the screen without printing it and then write just the answers in their homework book. At this stage we are not asking that any tasks be handed in via Google Classroom. The work will be marked at school, often together as a class so misconceptions can be addressed. Homework should not be arduous, but it is an important exercise in teaching the children skills of organisation and independence. It provides them with an opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning and prepares them for secondary school. Along with approximately ten minutes of reading which we expect them to do each evening where possible whether it's with you or independently, we will usually set one piece of Maths and one piece of English homework a week which should take no longer than an hour to complete. The English will often take the form of a reading comprehension, punctuation/ grammar activity, or written task and the maths homework will follow topics we cover in class. Generally, the activities will be given on a Friday and homework books containing completed homework (whether these are printed sheets or answers written onto the page) should be handed back by Wednesday.

Please feel free to assist your child with homework tasks, but often they will be consolidation activities which, for the most part, they should be able to complete independently. Occasionally the homework will be a practical activity but whatever is set, your child will record clear instructions in their book and instructions will be available on Google Classroom. Presentation is an important element of completing written homework successfully so this is an area you may wish to monitor. Do ensure they are following our handwriting policy, joining letters and making them of consistent size. Headings should be underlined and dates recorded. If you feel your child has worked to the best of their ability for a sufficient length of time but a homework task is not complete, please make a note and sign their homework book to indicate this.

P.E.

P.E. is timetabled for Monday and Thursday so your child will need to wear their PE kit in school on these days. For this term, PE sessions will be outdoors so it is important that they have trainers to change into and, on colder days, track suit trousers and tops (please refer to the school web site for uniform details – navy items not black are required.) We would be most grateful if you could check regularly that all clothing is marked with your child's name.

Classroom equipment

The emphasis on handwriting and presentation will continue this year. Please provide your child with two pencils, a handwriting pen, a rubber, a ruler, a sharpener and colouring pencils. **Please remember that toys are not permitted at school. Small toys such as keyrings and detachable parts on top of pens, are a distraction and take up desk space. They can be broken or lost, which also causes upset. A small fidget device (if used to aid attention and agreed with me) is acceptable, but it remains at teacher discretion if use of these becomes an issue and they need to be removed.**

The space the children have to hang their coats and bags during the day is limited so we would be grateful if you can supervise your child bringing in only essential items to school in the smallest available bag.

A reminder that snacks for break time should be something healthy and nutritious to aid learning and focus. Items like crisps or chocolate are not an appropriate snack and the children have discussed this in class. They should all bring a water bottle to school every day.

Attendance:

In line with the DfE, it is our aim that the attendance of pupils at our school is as close to 100% as possible. An attendance figure of less than 90% (**which equates to a child missing half a day of school every week**) is significant; in these circumstances, a child is classified as **persistently absent**.

While we understand that there are genuine reasons, notably illness, which mean it is not appropriate to send your child to school, as I am sure you can appreciate, any time away from the classroom is incredibly disruptive. A lesson missed puts a child at a disadvantage especially when that lesson falls within a sequence of planned learning activities. It can increase anxiety and in some cases affect social interactions and friendship groups.

In addition, research has been carried out which shows a clear link between attendance and attainment at all key stages: [The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year](#) In summary, from the data analysed: at KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time. **This means missing just 10 days of Year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.** Pupils who attended nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 -6 weeks more time in school).

The trend continued into Year 11: at KS4, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.9 times more likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time (relating to up to 2 weeks more time in school over the course of a year) and 3

times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 - 6 weeks more time in school). **This means missing just 10 days of year 11 reduced the likelihood of achieving grade 5 in English and Maths by around 50%.**

Therefore, we encourage you to send your child to school unless they have a temperature, are vomiting, have diarrhoea or any of the contagious illnesses as outlined in NHS guidance: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

A request for term time absence for holidays is not permitted. Please refer to the RBWM term time dates that are on our website and that you have been sent a copy of when booking holidays: [School term dates 2026/27 | School term dates | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead](#)

Punctuality:

Arriving promptly in the morning is also important as it will ensure a positive start to the day for your child. The school gate opens at 8:45am **with the expectation that every child has passed through by 8:55am.** The gate will be locked at 9am at which point your child will be marked late.

For a child arriving late, entering a classroom where their peers have already begun the day can be trauma-inducing. Their start to the day is less calm and it is likely they will miss out on early morning activities designed to recap, motivate and engage. Therefore, we encourage you to ensure your child arrives at school as close to 8:45am as possible.

End of day arrangements and phones

The school day finishes at 3:15pm. Please note that if you would like your child to walk home independently, we require written confirmation of this, so please send us a message via email. Please re-send this, even if permission was given in Year 5; we require this for our records.

Please be aware that we have joined with the local authority and are part of the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' movement. If you feel your child needs to bring a phone to school they should bring a 'brick' phone. At the start of the day phones are collected and are locked away securely. As part of safeguarding procedures children are not allowed to use phones during the day. Phones are returned at 3:15pm should they require them to walk home.

If you require clarification on anything, or wish to contact me or any other member of staff, please email the school office. While this is a class newsletter containing specific information relevant to our class, on a Friday the school newsletter will be emailed to you and posted on our website. Please find a moment to read the weekly newsletter as it will contain important information to help you navigate the term. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Redjeb and Emma Weller

Useful websites:

BBC Bitesize KS2

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/>

Study Ladder

www.studyladder.co.uk

Maths

http://www.transum.org/Software/SW/Starter_of_the_day/

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/literacy/>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/revision/Science/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-2016-sample-materials>