

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and I welcome the pupils back to what will be an important year in their education as they will complete their primary school years and start secondary school in September.

We are steadily building up towards the SAT's tests at the beginning of May and I'd like to remind pupils that it is really important that homework is in on time. I will be giving out English homework on Fridays for the following Wednesday and Mrs McLean will be giving out Maths homework on Thursdays to be completed by the following Monday. Twenty spellings will be given out on a Friday for a test the following Friday. Both spelling definitions and sentences need to be completed as well. Make sure they are hand written and that all grammar and punctuation is correct. Big writing will take place on Fridays and any talk homework will be given out earlier in the week.

This is an exciting and important time for your child and with maximum concentration and effort they will have a fantastic spring and summer term, making the progress they are capable of.

If you have any queries do get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Eccleston.

This half term the topic is 'Super Sleuth'.

English	In Reading children will be able to understand underlying themes, causes and consequences within whole texts and recognise authors' techniques to influence and manipulate the reader. They will listen to, read and discuss an increasingly wide range of fiction and analyse the conventions of different types of writing, e.g. detective fiction: <i>red herring, motive, alibi, alias, the reveal</i> . Pupils will explore texts in groups and deepen comprehension through discussion. They will demonstrate active reading strategies e.g. challenging peers with questions, justifying opinions, responding to different viewpoints within a group. Pupils will infer characters feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, justify inferences with evidence e.g. Point; Evidence; Explanation and predict what might happen from information stated and implied. In writing the pupils will manipulate sentences to create particular effects and use devices to build cohesion between paragraphs in narrative e.g. <i>in the meantime, meanwhile, in due course, until then</i> . They will identify the subject and object of a sentence and explore and investigate active and passive e.g. <i>I broke the window in the greenhouse</i> versus <i>the window in the greenhouse was broken</i> . They will also introduce and develop characters through blending action, dialogue and description within sentences and paragraphs. They will also complete a weekly 'Big write' on Fridays. Please encourage your child to learn their spellings and read for at least 15 minutes each day.
Mathematics	Topics covered this term are: Mental arithmetic and problem solving/reasoning, measurements; including capacity, length, weight, area, perimeter, volume and time, algebra and shapes, Children should continue

	to practice all the times tables up to 12 x and will receive weekly homework on mymaths.co.uk.
Science	<p>This half term the topic is 'Living things and their habitats'. Pupils will describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals. They will also give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.</p> <p>Homework will be given out from time to time and will be linked to the lessons work.</p>
Computing	In Computing pupils will understand how search engines work and know that there are different search engines; some to search within sites, and some to search the wider Internet. They will understand what 'ranking' is when related to search engines and understand the importance of keywords and 'linked' pages in the listing/ranking of websites by search engines.
P.E	<p>This half term the topic is This half term pupils will take part in Gymnastics. Pupils will: Perform matched and mirrored paired balances, perform counter balance and counter tension paired balances, perform a group counter balance, create a gymnastic sequence with counter balances and counter tension in a group, evaluate success of group and paired balances. perform paired and group counter balances in unison, create a sequence of gymnastic actions, paired and group balances, perform a part weight bearing balance, create a sequence of gymnastic actions, paired and group balances using apparatus, and evaluate success at working as a team.</p>
History	The learning within this theme focuses on events in British history from the Fifth Century until 1066. This period of time includes Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans. Children will use their detective skills to find out about the way people lived during these times.
Music	Some children will perform in the school choir and all pupils will take part in hymn singing during collective worship.
R.E	Our whole school worship theme is 'Courage' this half term and our RE topic is 'Celebrating the Eucharist-Why?' We will be looking at the following points for discussion: Why do Christians celebrate the Eucharist? What is the reason for celebrating the Eucharist? The Eucharist service has several names. Why is this time of worship called The Eucharist/Holy Communion/Mass/The Lord's Supper?