



St. Mary's C.E. Primary School
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Dear St Mary's Families,

As we step into an exciting new academic year at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, we are updating our homework approach to better support your child's learning, foster deeper understanding, and make home practice a more rewarding experience for everyone.

"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge." — Proverbs 23:12

As a fresh approach to spelling, we are moving away from traditional weekly spelling lists and Friday tests. Instead, we are thrilled to launch a new program for Years 2–6: Essential Spelling and Word Knowledge. Building directly on the strong phonics foundation your children have already built, this scheme focuses on exploring spelling patterns, word structures, and rich vocabulary. By shifting from rote memorisation to true word mastery, we are empowering our pupils to become confident, independent spellers in their everyday writing.

Weekly Homework Expectations

Reading: Reading remains the cornerstone of academic success.

- EYFS & Year 1: Children should read their assigned phonics book four times per week.
- Years 2–6: Children are expected to read for at least 20 minutes, four times a week.

Please sign your child's reading record each time they read at home. This helps us celebrate their dedication and enters them into our exciting half-termly reading raffle!

Maths: To keep core mathematical skills sharp, pupils should complete 20 minutes of practice per week.

- Key Stage 1: Pupils will use Numbots.
- Key Stage 2: Pupils will use Times Tables Rockstars (TTRockstars).
- Please note that a 30-minute daily usage limit is now in place on both platforms to encourage healthy screen habits.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in guiding the children's learning journey. If you have any questions about these changes, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the information session after school on today.

Kind regards,

Mrs Faryniarz