

please recycle me!



St Mary's CE VC Primary School  
Chard Street, Thorncombe, Dorset, TA20 4NE  
Telephone 01460 30535  
E-mail- [office@stmarysthorncombe.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarysthorncombe.co.uk)  
Website [www.stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk)  
Head of School: Miss Emily Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past few weeks we have really enjoyed welcoming the children back to school and re-engaging them all in their learning. We now feel in a position to introduce our usual half termly theme and broaden our curriculum to include more subjects. Therefore, for the remainder of this half term, the theme within Orchard Class will be 'Nature doesn't do Lockdown'. We will utilise this theme to engage children in working outdoors wherever possible.

Please see the attached curriculum which outlines our individual subject content in more detail. Our intention is to ensure our wider curriculum inspires and engages all children and allows them to grow personally as responsible citizens. We are always looking for ways to enrich our curriculum so if you wish to share any expertise, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Please see below for some of our key expectations for children across Key Stage Two.

### Reading

Please encourage your child to read for twenty minutes each day and record reading sessions within reading records. Our expectation is that children will read on at least three occasions at home per week. Our mission is to ensure that each child is also read with on one occasion per week with an adult in school. Within school, we have been guiding children within their book choice and each child has or will be undertaking a 'reading conference' with a teacher so we can ensure they know how to select an appropriate book and so we can identify their next steps as a reader. We really want children to be inspired by the book they are reading so please do speak to us if your child needs more support with their book choice. Lots of children have great recommendations for books to try!

### Spellings and Homework

This week, children in all year groups have been provided with a list of spellings to learn for this half term. Children will continue to be taught two discrete spelling lessons per week where spelling patterns and rules will be focussed upon and they will have a test of their weekly words on Thursday.

In addition to this, children will receive two pieces of Home Learning per week. To begin with, these will be focused on English and Maths but we will soon ensure pieces are sent to reflect the wider curriculum. These will be provided to the children each Friday and they should return their Home Learning to school by the following Wednesday.



## Times tables

By the end of Year 4, children are expected to have instant recall of their times table facts up to 12 x 12. To support them with this, please ensure children are practising regularly and you may notice some homework tasks coming home as we re-visit various times tables. Fluency in their times tables is crucial to be able to access the curriculum in Year 5 and 6. Please remember that children have their Times Table Rockstars login in order to practise their skills. Mrs Gripper will be writing to you soon to provide you with more information about challenges that will take place on TTRS.

All children have settled wonderfully back into school this half term. We look forward to the remainder of the half term and hope to share with you, some of the wonderful learning soon.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Yours sincerely

Miss Emily Smith

Head of School