

Year Two's Half Termly Newsletter – Summer 1.
Mrs Rogers, Mrs Ogden and Miss Hayde

We are really excited for the half term ahead. The summer uniforms happily remind us that the warmer weather is on its way and we will be making the most of this with lots of outdoor learning. We have started our swimming lessons and will continue to enjoy these every Tuesday afternoon until the half term.

PE KIT

Swimming – yippee!! Always a firm favourite for our children here at St Thomas'. As mentioned above, swimming will take place every Tuesday and children will need to bring their swimming kit, towel, swimming cap and goggles (optional) into school every Tuesday. Please ensure that EVERYTHING is labelled; we had lots of children going home in the wrong uniform after last week's session. It was like a 'swap shop' at the door on Wednesday Morning!

Book Bags

Please ensure your child has his/her book bag in school every day. Inside the pack should only be: school reading books, school reading journal and any letters to be returned. With our very busy schedule, book bags are not checked every day. If your child is returning a completed slip, please either pass this to a member of staff at the door or remind your child to take it out and hand it to an adult in class.

Cathedral Choir

This half term, the children will enjoy a series of weekly singing lessons with the Liverpool Cathedral choir. These lessons will take place every Monday morning in school and are a fantastic opportunity for our children to develop their choral singing skills and express themselves through song.

Home Learning - Reading

As you will be aware, all pupils at St Thomas' are strongly encouraged to read at least 5 times per week. If your child has read a book confidently at home and is able to talk about what they have read, please remind your child to complete a quiz at school before selecting a new and exciting read!

Home Learning - Maths

We recommend that all children access TT Rock stars for 20 minutes every day. Y2 pupils are asked to practice 2, 5- and 10-time's tables. Once these have been mastered, please move on to 3's and 4's ☺ Having the ability to readily recall number facts will greatly support your child in daily maths lessons and will help to build skill and confidence for SATS in May. **TT Rockstar's passwords can be found in the front of reading journals.**

Sun Safety

As we are now in the summer term, we will (hopefully!) be experiencing some warm weather, therefore please ensure your child has the following on sunny days:
A water bottle (please no metal water bottles), a labelled bottle of sun cream and a white or navy cap or sunhat. We are a Sun Safe school - please visit the below for more advice and information:
<https://www.sunsafeschools.co.uk/>

Summer 1 Curriculum Map

Maths In Maths we will be learning about money: how to count money and combine different coins to make the same amount. We will also be exploring fractions, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of shapes and amounts. We will also be practising telling the time. We will continue to practise our times tables and rapidly recalling facts for the 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x tables.	English In English, we will be reading <i>The King Who Banned the Dark</i> by Emily Howarth-Booth. We will use the text as a stimulus for writing a persuasive letter and banning narrative. We will focus on securing spellings of the Y1 and Y2 Common Exception words and on using these independently in our writing. Pupils will be encouraged to join letters when writing and to up level sentences using expanded noun phrases.	RE In RE, we will be learning about churches as special places. We will look closely at a range of churches and discuss similarities and differences. We are planning a trip to Liverpool to learn more about our two cathedrals and will let you know more about this in due course. We will ask and answer questions to develop our understanding and thinking.
Geography In Geography we will be learning about the Scandinavian countries of northern Europe: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland. We will study the Physical and Human features of these countries.	PHSE <i>'No Way Through Isn't True'</i> In this topic, we will be exploring how to respond when we are faced with a challenge. Pupils will discuss ways in which they can demonstrated resilience and problem solve.	Science In our Science lessons this half term we will be studying Materials and Matter. Through investigations we will learn about properties of liquids, solids and gases.
PE In PE, we will be focussing on Swimming. We will gain confidence in the water and practise swimming independently. 	Computing During our Computing Day we will be learning about Programming. We will explore algorithms and create our own simple methods for programming.	Art In Art, we will be learning about Portraits and Self Portraits. We will study the style of a range of artists and look at their different methods for creating portraits.

Year 2 Home Learning Menu

RE: Why is the church a special place for Christians?

Get Creative Can you design your own church? What do you think a new 21st Century church should look like? What would you like to see inside this new church? What do you think is important and must be included? Use your imaginations, but there must be some kind of font and altar. Can you label a plan and explain your thinking? Can you make a model of your church/artefacts using play dough, clay or junk modelling?	Oh, the places you'll go! Can you visit a local church and ask the clergy to show you around? What can you find out about the furniture, artefacts, vestments and services? Why are they there? What are they used for? Who uses them? When? Can you photograph/draw or paint the church and include the outside features of the building as well as the inside? Is there a tower or a steeple? Is there a churchyard to explore?
Time to Teach Can you prepare a lesson for a member of your family about the importance of the church as a special place for Christians? Can you teach them about special artefacts? Can you explain about Moses and the people of God who built the Tabernacle? (Tent of meeting)	Reason to Research Look at examples of different churches using the internet: https://www.roadaffair.com/most-beautiful-churches-in-the-world/ https://www.touropia.com/most-beautiful-churches-in-the-world/ What do you learn about the importance of churches to people across the world?
Ready to Report Collect pictures of churches from all around the country, the inside and the outside, along with people taking part in church services. This could be presented as a collage or Power Point Report. There are several good quality short films on the RE:Quest website www.request.org.uk	Have it your own way! Or complete a task of your choice in any way that you choose! 