

Year 1 and Year 2 Advent 1 Newsletter

Welcome back!

We hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are ready for the new academic challenges that lie ahead! We welcome all the new starters to Year 1 and 2 and we are sure they will make many friends and be very happy to be part of the English Martyrs' family.



Mission Week

To kick off the year, in our first week we have been exploring and celebrating our school mission statement (LIGHT). This is a whole school focus that focusses on our school ethos and expectations. Perhaps ask your child what each of the letters in the word 'LIGHT' means to them as part of the EM community.

Why wouldn't a meerkat live in the North Pole?



This half term, Year 1/2 and Year 2 will be reading 'Meerkat Mail'. Our first topic has a science focus on habitats. We will be investigating the different habitats of various animals and how they compare, with a spotlight on meerkats and their desert habitat. Later on in the half term, we hope to visit Trent College to explore their tree arboretum as part of our Autumn Watch Week (Week beginning 22nd October).

Uniform

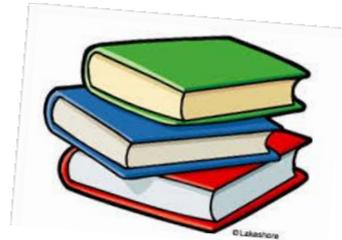
The children have all come to school very smart and are taking pride in their uniform - "Looking Smart, Thinking Smart!" Could you please make sure all names are written inside all the items of uniform. As a staff, we always remind the children to look after their belongings and are often carrying a jumper behind one or two pupils on the way out of school!

PE

Our P.E. day will be a Wednesday. Please can we ask that children always have a PE kit in school and that all items of the kit have a name in them. A gentle reminder that earrings need to be removed for PE lessons, therefore ensure children come to school without their earrings or teach your child to take out and put them back in after the PE lesson.

Reading

The children have been given a reading book and reading diary. Time is allotted each morning for children to change books. Please try to hear your children read each day and make a note in their reading diary. We are happy for you to include notes about books you have read to your child or if your child has read a different book from home also. We will endeavour to listen to your child read at least twice per week but the more practice they get reading aloud the better as reading is vital in all subjects across the curriculum.



Reading Diary

We will often use reading diaries to send messages home, please ensure you read the diary and sign it each week. If you would like to send us a message please use the diary as we will check it every day e.g. changes in how the child is getting home, appointments, changes to lunch times etc.

Homework for the half term and outcomes are attached in the front of the diary - the children really enjoy celebrating their homework with their class and we appreciate the time it takes. There are also reading and maths challenges to do over the term that do not always need to be handed in but will be tested throughout the lessons.

There is a list of spellings we will be focussing on this half term in the back of the reading diary. These are the spellings that will be used in our spelling bees at the end of each half term so please spend some time looking at them with your child.

Additionally you will find a Manga High login at the back of the diary. This will enable your child to access the Manga High maths website and work through the activities allocated to them by their class teacher as well as being able to enjoy the rest of the games on there.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Ellis, Miss Daykin, Mrs Sutton and Miss Shaw