



Elliott's Hill, Brixton, Plymouth, PL8 2AG  
Tel: 01752 880436 Fax: 01752 882323  
E-mail: [admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the children and parents of Potter Class had a lovely Christmas and a brilliant holiday. The children have had an amazing week back and started the year off with a bang!

P.E for Potter Class will continue to be on a Tuesday with Saints, we will also be doing P.E on a Thursday. This means that PE kit needs to be in school from Monday morning and they will be sent home on a Friday evening for washing over the weekend. It is important that all items of clothing, PE kit, coats and school uniform, are named to avoid any lost belongings, they can get muddled when the children are getting changed.

Following on from my last letter please could I ask that your children only bring a bookbag to school and not a backpack. With many children in Potter Class now bringing them every day it is posing a few problems during our school day. In the mornings, break time, lunchtime and home time children are finding it very hard to find their pegs in particular the Year 1s and Receptions and even some parents! During the day it is becoming a potential health and safety risk with so much stuff on the children's pegs it is constantly falling off and children are slipping on coats and getting caught in backpack straps. I am aware that children can sometimes have a lot to bring to school but I would appreciate it if backpacks could be kept only for days when children have a lot to carry e.g. dance club, trips, sleepovers.

At break time we continue to provide free fruit for all Reception and KS1 children. This term, toast will continue to be paid for by the children at break time. It has taken us a while to settle in but the children have really taken to it now and I have seen an increase in their confidence when using money.

All children will continue to bring home a reading book each night and will change their books on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This allows them to read the book more confidently and means you and your child can focus on other elements such as expression and comprehension should you wish. I do remind children on the morning of these days to change their books but they are responsible for choosing a book they have not read before. Could you please remember to write any comments in each evening and to return them to school each morning. I appreciate any support you give in helping your child with their reading and keywords. It really does make a difference.

As well as this all children will come home with spellings to learn every Friday, I would be really grateful if you could practice these spellings at home with your children when you can. They will be tested on them the following Friday.

Year 2 will also get 1 piece of homework with the spellings which I estimate to take roughly 20 minutes. This should be returned on or before the following Wednesday. Should they have any problems with the homework or you are unable to complete it by the hand in date, please come and see me or write a note in their reading diary.

Every Friday afternoon I will hold a show and tell. This will work on a rota system:

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January: Wembury

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January: Bigbury

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February: Bovisand

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February: Mothecombe

The following week will go back to Wembury and it will continue from there. However if you are unsure it is also written on a sign in our class window on a weekly basis.

I will also continue to send Monty our class monkey home every Friday for the weekend, to be returned on the Monday. If your child has not yet had him, he will be coming to your house one Friday soon!

This term we are going to be learning lots of exciting new things!

In English, we will be focusing on the units of story writing (traditional tales), diary writing/recount, instructions, poetry and recount of a trip. This will work alongside the children's daily phonic sessions, where they will focus on their blending and segmenting skills with Year 2 also looking at spelling, grammar and punctuation. Cross- curricular links will also be made to IPC and Computing throughout the term.

In Maths, the children will begin the term by reinforcing their number and counting skills before we move on to other mathematical concepts such as addition and subtractions, data handling and introducing aspects of multiplication and division.

All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. I will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work. Perhaps they could share it with you too!

Our IPC topic this term is People of the Past. I am aware that the Year 2 children have covered this before in Reception, however Mrs Webb and I have made sure that all content is new and the children are finding out about different historical figures.

If you have anything to share with the class or comments about the topic and its contents please do get in touch, it would be great to share personal experiences or items with the children.

If for any reason you have any worries or concerns, please feel free to come and see me I am more than happy to talk through any thoughts that you have.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Laura Kay