



SHENFIELD ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

HALL LANE SHENFIELD BRENTWOOD CM15 9AL
(A member of the Mid Essex Anglican Academy Trust)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your family have had a relaxing summer break and are ready for the busy year ahead. You will be pleased to know that the children have settled well and have already demonstrated a willingness to learn, an appreciation of building strong, independent skills and the importance of supporting one another. This bodes well for for a successful year.

This term the children will be learning all about the Mayans of Central America. We have already begun to analyse and interrogate 'The Explorer' by Katharine Rundell as she is our focused author and the story links well with our Mayan theme. It tells the story of a group of children who find themselves lost in the Amazon Rainforest. Much of our literacy work will stem from this. The children will take part in a special Mayan morning on Tuesday 20th September as we are fortunate enough to have Mexicolore visit us. We ask parents to contribute to the cost of this amazing day which will be uploaded to ParentPay shortly. In science we will be studying units on 'Light' and 'Evolution and Adaptation'.

The children will have already chosen an independent reading book - either from school or home. It is imperative that they read for a minimum of 15 minutes each day and record this in their diary. To enable them to become proficient readers, we encourage the children to read across a variety of genres. They are also expected to read for weekly guided comprehension sessions which will usually take place on a Monday. Certainly for the first few weeks, it would be really helpful if you could listen to your child read, talk about the characters and plot with them and discuss any unfamiliar language.

We will continue to use 'Google Classroom' to set weekly homework. The CGP Maths and SPAG books, that we have used in previous years, will continue with parents/carers expected to mark their child's work and address any misconceptions. Homework will be set on a Friday and will need to be completed by the following Thursday. Year 6 children will be expected to bring these completed homework books into school for us to review. Spellings will also be available on 'Google Classroom' to practise for weekly spelling tests. A practical topic-based project will be assigned each term to enhance the children's creativity.

We have a House Day planned for Tuesday 18th October; the theme for this is 'Show Racism the Red Card'. The children will need to wear something red that day. The traditional Christmas House Day will take place on Thursday 1st December. The decorations made will bring a festive cheer to the school. Our Harvest Service will take place on Thursday 29th September and Year 6 parents will be invited along. On Thursday 13th October, the two Year 6 classes will jointly lead the KS2 Eucharist service in the school hall. Kite Class will present their class assembly on Friday 7th October and it would be great for them to have family members in the audience.

PE will take place on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon; children should attend school in PE kit on these two days. Earrings must be removed for PE. The Daily Mile will continue on non PE days to promote physical well-being.

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The school is able to offer three Bikeability courses immediately after half term. Further details will follow.

As you can see, we have a full, exciting and rewarding term ahead and we look forward to sharing the children's successes with you.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Jessop and Miss Judd