



## 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,

Happy New Year! We hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and had time spent as a family. Let us hope that 2023 is a great year for all of us.

The children had a wonderful Autumn term. They have settled very quickly from their transition from the infants to the junior part of the school. The topic *Exciting Egyptians* was very exciting indeed! The children loved learning about mummification and wrote some brilliant instructions on this subject. They also studied the Egyptian gods and created some amazing Egyptian death masks. Geographically, they looked at the importance of the River Nile as a source of agriculture and transportation for the people of Egypt and how the seasons affect farming for the Egyptians. Finally, we can't not mention that we all had a fantastic Egyptian Day when the children dressed up in their finest Egyptian outfits, re-enacted mummification and played traditional games.

Now, onto this term.

### Topic

The new topic for year 3 this term is *The Rampaging Romans*. The children have so much to look forward to, including studying the Roman Empire and its notorious army, looking at famous landmarks such as The Circus Maximus and The Colosseum and researching the jobs of a gladiator or a charioteer during Roman times. We would like to share more with you, but some things are better to be kept as a surprise!

Lastly, we have booked our school trip to Colchester Castle. This will take place on Thursday 23rd February 2023. The contribution amount asked for will be uploaded to your ParentPay account shortly.

### Homework

All homework will continue via Google Classrooms. The spellings will be available for you to access. Please send a photo of your child's work for us to view when completed. There will be weekly literacy tasks set from the CPG books (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar) and a maths task.

Children will be asked to complete one project each half term. This could be a project completed independently, with siblings or family members or even with their peers.

Please support your child with all these tasks and mark the work with them in the CPG book, going over any misconceptions. This book does not need to be returned to school. Spellings and tables will continue to be tested on a Thursday.

Please continue to hear your child read daily for at least 15 minutes per day, discussing the story, characters and predicting what may happen next. Please ensure their reading diary is signed to indicate when they have read aloud to an adult. Children are asked to complete 2 stars and a wish in their reading diary after completing each book to review what they have read. Children are welcome to read by themselves but reading aloud to an adult is very important to aid comprehension, intonation and expression. They will have the opportunity to bring home a fiction book or a non-fiction book each week, although we also encourage them to read books from home to develop their independent reading skills.

### PE

PE continues to be on a Monday and Friday. Please ensure that children's PE clothes are named.

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### **Maths**

In maths, Year 3 will be continuing to practise their 3, 4 and 8 times tables as a priority (please continue to support your child practise these times tables). Our focus will be on multiplication and division strategies followed by a revision of money, applying all operations. Any practical assistance at home when out shopping regarding money will be greatly appreciated in the classroom and will help your child studying this unit.

### **Science**

This term, children will be exploring light and magnets. They will be planning and carrying out investigations, using mirror mazes in Spring 1 and magnetic forces in Spring 2.

### **RE**

Children will begin their Spring term with the unit named 'Gospel', which tells the story of the life and teaching of Jesus. They will then learn about Islamic traditions and beliefs, making links between Christianity and Islam, before returning to the teachings of Christianity, studying the Year 3 unit of 'Salvation'. This is the Christian celebration of Easter.

Also, other experiences to keep in mind this term:

- Year 3 have been given a very special opportunity to lead the Lower School Easter service.
- Class Bible worship for Badger and Pine Marten will both be this term and the themes will be on the Christian values of trust and truthfulness.

Please keep an eye on Google Classroom for further information.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs.Chudley, Mrs.Gurney & Mrs.Mooney