



SHENFIELD ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

E-mail: admin@shenfield-st-marys.essex.sch.uk
Website: shenfieldstmarys.co.uk
Head of School: Mrs E Bundy

Tel: 01277 221249
Fax: 01277 264316
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Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer break and are ready for the busy year ahead. The children have already made a favourable impression upon us and have demonstrated a willingness to learn, an appreciation of rising to the challenge and the importance of supporting one another. This bodes well for a productive 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 Thursday 2nd November 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.

Our Harvest Service will take place on Wednesday 27th September and Year 6 parents will be invited along. On Thursday 11th October, the two Year 6 classes will jointly lead the KS2 Eucharist service in the school hall. Stoa Class will present their Class-led Worship on Friday 17th November and it would be great for them to have family members in the audience. A House morning will take place on Friday 13th October. We ask that the children wear either blue, green, yellow or red. Children may wish to dress in their house colours or select a different colour for the day. More details will follow when the theme is finalised.

On a Monday afternoon, both classes will have a games lesson outside. Stoa Class will have their indoor PE session on a Wednesday and Weasel Class will have theirs on a Friday. Children should attend school in PE kit on the relevant 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 four Bikeability courses this half term. Further details will follow for those who have registered an interest.

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. Hopefully we will see many of you on Monday 18th September for our PGL and SATs presentation.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Judd & Mrs Jessop