

Information for Parents of children in Mercury Class – Autumn Term

Welcome back to a new academic year at St. Peter's CEP. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer filled with fun and laughter. I am very excited to be working once again in Mercury class with your child, we hope to discover and learn about many new and exciting things. While there are many highlights below my personal favourite for this term will be starting guitar lessons and swimming lessons with the children. Look out for more information about these activities as the term progresses.

Here is a reminder of the adults who are working with the class:

- **Mr Knox** teaches Mercury every day.
- **Miss Rawlings** is the class HLTA Teaching Assistants working in the class Monday to Wednesday & Fridays
- **Mrs Smith** is a 1:1 Teacher Assistant working in the class on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- **Miss Hill** is a 1:1 Teacher Assistant working in the class on Wednesdays.



If you would like to see what the children are getting up to this term, please do check out our Mercury class webpage. You can find it on the school website under the 'our school' tab at the top of the page. [St Peter's Church of England Primary School - Mercury Year 4 \(st-peters.kent.sch.uk\)](http://st-peters.kent.sch.uk) I post many photos and video of exciting things we get up to in class so check back regularly.

If you have any questions about the newsletter or anything else, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me via the school office.

Values and vision - Built upon courage, compassion and respect, excellence in learning and ambition in teaching, our school lights the way to a world of possibilities.

With relationships at our core, we nurture every individual. Each unique contribution is valued.

All flourish, making a difference as global citizens and as a beacon in our local community.

Our school vision is underpinned by Matthew 5: 14-16

'A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

Our Moto for the school is: '**Learning to light the Way**'

This term the values we will focus on in our assemblies and worships are:

Term 1		
 Courage	Democracy	Me and My Relationships
School value	 British Value	 SCARF Theme

Home learning – Children in year 4 are set daily homework every night but children do not have to complete their homework for the next day. They will always be told when their homework is due. A homework timetable can be seen below.

For regular practice of **spelling**, the school uses [EdShed](https://www.edshed.com/) as daily practice of different spelling patterns. Children have access to this website with their login details in their reading records. Weekly word lists will be given to the children on a Friday and they can use Edshed

to practice spelling these words with various games and activities. I will also be able to monitor progress on this website / App to check children are complete the tasks set for them.

As an additional challenge I will challenge each child every week to see if they can beat my score on Edshed with their weekly spellings.

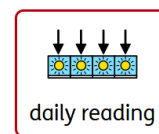
Times table and maths practice will be set each week using the Times Table Rock Stars and My Maths websites. I will set new challenges every Sunday for children to complete during the week. Challenges we be based on content w e have already covered in order for children to refresh their memory of concepts we have done before. As with other online material, children have been shown how to access the material and login details have been given in their reading records.

Each weekend there will be a set weekend challenge focusing on either Geography or Science work. It is advantageous to complete this work as I often use their learning from this to inform lessons the following week.

To assist with daily home learning I have created this suggested timetable. While it is not essential to complete home learning in this order it does help to create a daily routine. If your child is finding home learning challenging please do come and speak to me so I can discuss the home learning with your child to encourage learning at home. Home learning should be fun and engaging, not a chore so do speak to me if you need any support.

Daily	Reading (please encourage your child to read daily and ideally to an adult, who can sign the reading record that comes into school each day)	
Regular practice	Times tables	Test every Monday
	Spellings	Test every Friday
Monday	Spellings – Spend 15 minutes on <i>Edshed</i> to practice this week’s spellings	
Tuesday	Maths – My maths online learning – Please use login details given.	
Wednesday	Spellings – Spend 15 minutes on <i>Edshed</i> to practice this week’s spellings	
Thursday	<i>Times Tables Rockstars</i> – spend 15 minutes practicing our table of the week	
Friday	Topic/ Science Weekend Challenge	

Reading – From this week, children will be bringing home a school reading book from the class book corner. These books have been chosen by the children and are set at a level of their ability based on their Accelerated Reader scores we do in school. Ideally I would encourage the children to read a minimum of 4 times a week and record this in their reading records each time. I would also encourage the children to record their reading themselves, but parents should help the children do this. Reading records will be check weekly so it is important that books come in each day as we have lots of opportunities for reading in school as well. Please can you support them with remembering to bring it in each day in their book bags.



PE - Our **PE days** are **Thursday** and **Fridays** so please ensure your child is wearing the correct PE kit on these days. Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on these days and will be in the kit the whole day. As we are entering Autumn, please provide your child with jogging bottoms and a waterproof jacket.



On Thursday's we will be going swimming at Holmewood house in Langton Green. Children should be in PE kits on Thursday and then have a separate swimming bag with a swimsuit, goggles, swimming cap and towel.

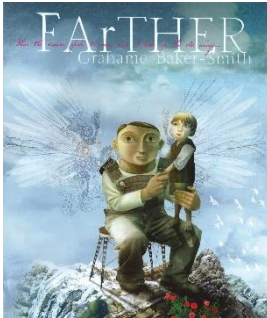
Music (guitar lessons) – I am pleased to announce that for this term Mercury will be taking part in whole class guitar lessons with a specialist guitar teacher. These lessons will take place on Wednesday mornings. Guitars are provided by the school, so no extra equipment is necessary. If you have any more questions about this amazing opportunity please do not hesitate to contact me or the office.

I hope that this newsletter provides you with the relevant information to help support your child with their learning this term. If you have any questions or queries with homework, please don't hesitate to contact me or encourage your child to speak to me in class. If you would like to speak to me, remember that you can catch me at the end of the day for a brief chat or email the school office to arrange a telephone call or zoom chat if necessary.

I look forward to a fun beginning to this school year and getting to know all the children of Mercury class.

Mr Knox

Mercury Class Curriculum Information for Term 1

Subject	To be covered
English	<p>In English this term we will focus on both fictional and non-fiction pieces of text, with particular attention to writing narrative stories and instructional writing. Our first unit of work will focus around the text of <i>Farther</i> by Grahame Baker-Smith. Children will then look to create their own narrative stories centred around a continuation story into the future of a character. Our second piece of writing this term will focus on instructional writing around food recipes related to our science unit of food and digestion. Throughout the term we will also be reading a text in VIPERS called 'Who let the Gods out' by Maz Evans.</p> 
Maths	<p>In Maths, this term we will be focusing on securing your child's understanding of place value of numbers. We will be learning how to count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000; find 1000 more or less than a given number; count backwards through zero to include negative numbers; recognise the place value of each digit in a four-digit number (thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones); read Roman numerals to 100 (I to C).</p> <p>We will then begin to develop your child's ability to add and subtract numbers with up to 4 digits, using the formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction where appropriate.</p>
Science	<p>This term in Science the children will be learning about Animals including human beings. Using models, children describe the function of key organs in the digestive system. Pupils identify the types of human teeth and investigate factors that impact our dental health. They compare human teeth to other animals' and take on the role of a naturalist investigating animal faeces for clues about diet, digestion and dentition.</p>
Geography	<p>For our first unit in Geography this year we will be focusing on food, asking our big question of Where does our food come from? Looking at the distribution of the world's biomes and mapping food imports from around the world; learning about trading fairly, focusing on Côte d'Ivoire and cocoa beans; exploring where the food for the children's school dinners comes from and the argument of 'local versus global'.</p>
Art and Design	<p>This term we are focusing on Art and Design. In this unit, we will be focusing on drawing skills, creating powerful prints. Using mechanical engravings as a starting point, pupils develop an awareness of proportion, composition and pattern in drawing and combine media for effect when developing a drawing into a print.</p>
RE	<p>In term one we focus on learning on the concept of creation, with our big question being What do Christians learn from the creation story? The children will be exploring this concept through an exploration of the story of the story of creation from Genesis 1. Through this study the children will learn and offer suggestions about what the story of Adam and Eve might show about human nature and how to act. They will describe how and why</p>

	Christians might pray to God, say sorry, forgive and ask for forgiveness. Make links between what stories in the Bible say about human beings, and pupils' own ideas about how people should behave.
Computing	For this term we are going to focus on computing systems and networks , with a particular look into the internet . Learners will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and will be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves in order to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally, they will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.
PSHE	For this term in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) we are learning about me and my relationships . We begin our learning on this topic by looking at different feelings, considering how they affect our bodies and rank them based on intensity. We will then continue by focusing on how we can work collaboratively and what skills we need in order to do this effectively. We will then finish our unit of study looking at how to deal with unkindness and how to help when we are worried about bullying.
Spanish	This term we are continuing our Spanish by reviewing our phonics knowledge of the Spanish language through two units of study. We will begin the year reviewing the accurate phonics and pronunciation of key sounds in Spanish. After this we will study "me presento" (presenting myself). The unit will, as the title suggests, provide the language the children will need to talk about themselves. This unit will teach children how to: Count to 20, say their name and age, say hello and goodbye and then ask how somebody is feeling and answer how they are feeling, tell you where they live, and tell you their nationality and understand basic gender agreement rules.
Music	For Music this term we are going to learn about Body and tuned percussion. A topic of discovery; children will explore the rainforest through music and be introduced to new musical terms. They will also use a mixture of body percussion and tuned percussion instruments as the children create their own rhythms of the rainforest, layer by layer. In addition, children will have weekly guitar lessons beginning this term with a specialist guitar teacher.
PE	For PE this term the two sports we will be focusing on will be Indoor Athletics and Swimming . Thursday's we will be going swimming , learning different skills based on our swimming ability to develop our water confidence and skill in swimming different strokes. Indoor Athletics will be taught on a Friday's, where the children will focus on short sprints, standing long jump relay races and shotput. The children will also develop skills in accurate measuring of each event.