



WELCOME TO DISCOVERY CLASS



What a year we have in store!

We are thrilled to be teaching this wonderful class again and are really looking forward to guiding them through their final year at St. Mary's.

It will be a very busy year but also a very rewarding one for the children as they take on lots of extra responsibilities, prepare for SATs, look forward to Robinwood and produce an end of year extravaganza!

Below, you will find some general information about life in Discovery Class. However, should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to ask.

With best wishes,
Mrs Birchall and Mrs Gielty

Daily Routine in Discovery Class

Ready for Action!

Please make sure your child arrives in school by 8.50am at the latest as they have a learning task to undertake as soon as they arrive and we don't want them to miss it!

Snack

The children are welcome to bring a mid-morning snack of fruit - apples are by far the most popular at the moment!

Boosters

Boosters are the stuff of legend in Y6 and have already begun for this year's Discovery Class. Every Friday morning, the children work in specially-selected small groups with either myself, Mrs Gielty or Mrs Richardson. Before play, we focus on Maths and after play we turn our attention to Reading Comprehension. Working in small groups with more individualised attention from a member of staff, enables the children to make accelerated progress and - what's more - the children love it! They were certainly all buzzing after last week's sessions so long may this continue!

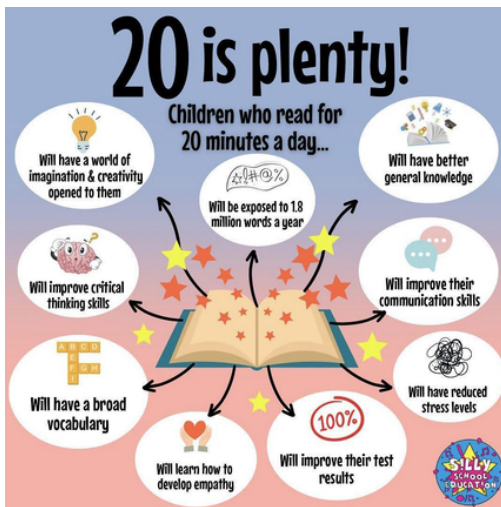
PE

Our PE days this term are THURSDAY and FRIDAY. Children should come to school in their PE kit on these days. Please ensure they also have a pair of black pumps in school for indoor PE activities.

Walking home

Children in Discovery Class are trusted to make their own way home but only with written consent from a parent/carer. If you wish your child to walk home alone, please contact us by email, if you haven't already done so. Phones are NOT allowed in school. However, they are permitted for children who are walking home alone. They should be handed in at the beginning of the school day and will be kept securely in the school office.

Home Reading



Reading for Pleasure

Alongside their Reading Scheme book, all the children have also chosen a free reader book, which they can read in school and can also take home, if they wish. Children should have both books in school every day, please. If they keep them in their bags, they shouldn't be able to forget them!

Reading regularly is one of the best ways to support your child's learning. Although many Year 6 children are confident, independent readers, listening to your child read aloud is still important. It helps develop fluency, expression, comprehension and vocabulary.

Our expectation is that children read at least 5 times a week for 20 minutes each day from their Reading Scheme book.

Children can change these books as often as they like.

We are encouraging children to take responsibility for recording their own reading in their reading log. An adult at home should then sign each entry.

 **Reading Reward:** Children who complete 5 reading entries and obtain 5 parental signatures in a week will earn a raffle ticket for our half-termly reading draw for the chance to win a book!

Reading records should be handed in for checking every WEDNESDAY.

Homework

The children got into some excellent habits last year and so we have kept to the same pattern for Homework this year. This will be sent home every FRIDAY and is due in the following WEDNESDAY. It will usually consist of an Arithmetic sheet, some times tables work and an English activity - either Grammar and Punctuation or a Reading Comprehension activity.

Please also keep encouraging your child to practise their times tables. They can do this through TT Rockstars and many other online games but if you would like more ideas on how to support your child with this, please do ask.

How You Can Support - thank you!

Families can support their child by:

 Encouraging regular reading and talking about books together.

 Supporting homework routines and encouraging children to take responsibility for completing their work.

 Talking about what they have been learning in school.

 Celebrating effort, progress and independence.

 Encouraging a positive attitude towards learning.