



St Mark's CE Primary School

'Loving to Learn, Learning to Love'

Year 6 Newsletter Summer 1



Our topic this half term will be history-based, asking the question 'What was life like in the Mayan civilisation?' This will give us an opportunity to look at the success, downfall and legacy of this ancient civilisation. The children will interrogate a range of historical sources and use them to form their own opinions.

English

This half term, our focus text will be 'The Island' by Armin Greder. We will be using this text to cover formal letter writing and narratives with flashbacks. It is also important that the children are joining their handwriting and ensuring they are using known spelling rules in their work.

As we head through the summer term, we will also be doing some additional short pieces of writing to recap genres the children have already been taught. This will provide the children with the opportunity to demonstrate a wider range of skills in time for their writing assessment to be made.

SATs Preparations

As we approach our KS2 SATs in the later part of this half term, we will be using time in school to revise our learning from across Key Stage 2. This will include regular arithmetic sessions as well as looking at areas we are finding tricky. We will continue with daily SPAG recaps, and additional revision sessions have been planned around test-style questions.

Although it is important that the children do spend some time revising, we would ask that you also make sure they are getting plenty of rest at home. This will ensure they are ready for their jam-packed days at school.

Maths

Our mathematics this half term will develop the children's understanding of algebra, shape and position and movement.

If you are looking for areas that you can revise with your child at home, ideas could include **long multiplication, long division, multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 and finding percentages of a number**. Ask your child to show you the methods they have been using at school. Class teachers can also discuss this with you if required.

Key Dates

Key Stage 2 Tests 2026

Date	Test	Duration
Monday 11 th May	Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Paper 1: Questions (50 marks)	45 minutes
	Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Paper 1: Spellings (20 marks)	20 minutes (approx.)
Tuesday 12 th May	Reading (50 marks)	1 hour
Wednesday 13 th May	Maths Paper 1: Arithmetic (40 marks)	30 minutes
	Maths Paper 2: Reasoning (35 marks)	40 minutes
Thursday 14 th May	Maths Paper 3: Reasoning (35 marks)	40 minutes

P.E.

Year 6 will be taking part in PE lessons for the whole of this half term. Please ensure that the children come to school in the correct PE kit (white t-shirt, black jogging bottoms and trainers) on a **Thursday**. A note must be provided if your child has to miss a session due to health reasons.