



St. Mary's C.E. Primary School
Year Four
Autumn Term 1
September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4! We hope you have enjoyed a restful summer. We are delighted to be teaching the class and look forward to a very busy and productive year ahead. So now it is 'back to school' and we hope your child is refreshed and eager to start back. We would like to take this opportunity to wish your child both a successful and positive year ahead. As usual, these parent letters, written every half-term, provide you with a brief outline of the curriculum that has been planned. Mrs Bishop shall be teaching the class for the majority of the week with Mrs Thomas teaching on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesdays. Miss Overton is our Y4 Teaching Assistant and Miss Stephen is our Learning Support Assistant.

Below is an outline of the Year 4 curriculum for this half-term:

We begin the half term with a short 'Brainwave' topic. This topic helps children to learn about what learning is, what learning means and how to talk about learning in the classroom and beyond. It is a great topic to set the standard for great learning in our Y4 classroom! We then move on to the exciting 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures'. This topic kicks off with the discovery of an ancient tomb, which we are sure the class will enjoy!

English:

In English we start with adventure stories which raise issues or dilemmas. To help with this the class will be reading the *Power of Reading* text 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said. The class will look closely at the descriptions of characters and settings in this text. They will be writing recounts and explanations. The grammar and punctuation focus for this half term will be on basic punctuation and parts of speech - nouns, verbs and adjectives. The children will be taught to apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes. Neat joined handwriting will be encouraged in independent writing and the children will be expected to increase the fluency of their handwriting. At the start of the term your child will be given a spelling card with details of the half term's weekly spellings. Please ensure that your child practices the weekly spellings daily and brings the card in every Friday so they can record their result in the test. Children who do not get more than 8 spellings correct will be tested the following Monday.

Maths:

Year 4 will begin the year by working at mental addition and subtraction; problem solving and reasoning; number and place value; mental multiplication and division; written multiplication and division; fractions, ratio and proportion; measurement; decimals, percentages and their equivalence to fractions; and written addition and subtraction. By Year 4 we aim for children to be fluent with their times tables. We will start the year revising tables and testing every Monday - keep practicing tables in and out of order!

RE:

This half term the class will be focusing on the topic "How did Belief in God Affect the Actions of People in the Old Testament?" We shall look in particular at the stories of Solomon, Jonah, Daniel, Ruth, Moses and Abraham, and consider the importance their belief in God made in the difficult decisions they had to make.

PSHE:

Our topic is **Being Me in My World** which focuses on becoming a class team and a school citizen and reflecting upon our rights, responsibilities, democracy, rewards and consequences.

Computing:

In Computing the children will first revise their skills at general computer usage and then become more efficient at using word processing software like Word. They will begin a Touch Typing course and learn to code with HTML. The children will continue to be taught about how to keep them safe online as we review the SMART rules together and follow the adventures of Lee and Kim!

History:

For the '**Temple, Tombs and Treasures**' unit of work the children will be finding out about the importance of water (rivers and lakes) to ancient civilization; the daily life of the Ancient Egyptians; how to write using hieroglyphics; Egyptian religion, sacrifice and burials; finding out about the different rulers of Egypt; exploring how the pyramids may have been built; finding out about the treasures discovered in Tutankhamun's tomb; using sources to find out about Ancient Sumer; and comparing life in Ancient Sumer with life in Ancient Egypt.

French:

Madame Cox will continue to teach French in Year 4. The children will be asked to show their knowledge of French vocabulary so far and revise the basics (i.e. greetings, introducing yourself, parts of the body and colours). The class will then learn how to use adjectives to describe themselves.

Art:

We warmly welcome Mrs Forsyth, our new Art teacher. Work will focus on the art of the Egyptian period, including treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun (1332-1323 BCE), Queen Nefertiti's bust (14th century BCE) and the distinctive half-profile representations of people and animals.

We will be developing our drawing skills, including over-drawing details into an image, and will use a variety of materials, including pencil, charcoal and soft pastels.

Music:

In Year 4 this half term the class will be working in groups to create their own compositions to tell a story based on an ancient civilisation, which will link in with their class topic. We will be looking at how instruments are used to create different moods and emotions and how other musical elements contribute to the overall effect. Their finished compositions will be recorded so that we can listen back to them and evaluate them.

PE:

Year 4 will be participating in PE lessons on Mondays with Mr Ellis and on Wednesdays with Mrs Thomas. This half term's activity will be basketball. Pupils will focus on dribbling with changes in speed and direction and perform a variety of passes. In addition the class will practice their set shot, link dribbling, passing and receiving. These skills will be applied through a range of co-operative and competitive games.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT (AND SUITABLE FOOTWEAR) IS IN SCHOOL ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS AND LABELLED CLEARLY. Please note that in Key Stage 2 your child will change into their PE kits during school time. Full school uniform must therefore be worn to school. Your child will be dismissed wearing their school uniform.

YEAR 4 HOME LEARNING

Maths and English weekly homework will be sent out every Wednesday and should be returned the following Tuesday.

Each task should take on average 30 - 40 minutes.

Maths and English homework should be done in the relevant homework books taken home by your child each week. The emphasis being not just on completion, but also neatness and presentation skills! Any worksheets and additional paper should be carefully trimmed and stuck neatly into the homework books please.

Encourage your child to use all pages - do not waste space!

Spellings: Spelling cards given out at the start of each half term. Weekly spelling test on Friday.

Times Tables: Please practice regularly for a test every Monday - more info to follow.

Reading: Daily - to be listened to by an adult for at least 10 minutes each evening - if possible.

Projects: From time to time your child may be required to complete an independent project. Information on any projects will be sent home in a separate letter.

If you have any queries about the daily routine or what your child is learning, or perhaps to inform us of other matters relating to your child, then do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the Year 6 team. As always the best way to do this is through the use of our PACT email system. Messages are checked daily by 9am and we will always endeavor to reply to you as soon as possible.

The Year 4 team is delighted to be teaching the class and look forward to a very busy and productive half term ahead.

Kindest regards
Amanda Bishop
Tina Thomas