



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Endurance ~ Compassion ~ Thankfulness

Year 4: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Autumn Term 1, September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year here at St. Mary's and welcome to Year 4! I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer. I am 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 a successful and positive year ahead. As usual, these parent letters (written every half term and published on our school website) provide you with a brief outline of the curriculum that has been planned. Other useful information related to your child's class and their learning is also provided. Please print a copy of this letter and keep it safe so that you can refer back to it as necessary.



The Year 4 Team

Our Year 4 team this year is:

Mr M Lett - full-time class teacher

Mrs T Thomas - cover teacher on Friday's from 11.30am

Mrs Khatib and Mrs Overton - teaching assistants (mornings only)

Meet and Greet Session

An opportunity for you to visit the Year 4 classroom and meet Mr Lett will take place on Tuesday 10th September at 6pm. A presentation about the expectations in Year 4 will be provided.

The Curriculum

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 re-tested the following Monday.

Maths

Year 4 will begin mastering maths by exploring and developing their skills in the topics of 'place value (4-digit numbers)' and 'addition and subtraction'. This will include rounding, counting, using number lines, roman numerals, comparing numbers, ordering numbers, negative numbers, adding two 4-digit numbers, subtracting two 4-digit numbers, estimating answers, checking strategies and problem solving.

During Year 4 we aim for all children to be fluent with their times tables up to 12x12. The DfE (Department for Education) will require all schools in England to administer a brand new test to determine whether Year 4 pupils can recall their multiplication tables fluently. This test will take place in June and will be called the Multiplication Tables Check or MTC for short. To ensure the children will do well in this test we will start the year revising tables and testing every Friday - so do please keep practicing tables with your child - 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?" The class 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 themselves 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

We warmly welcome Madame Baig who will be teaching French in Year 4 this year every Wednesday.

Art and Design

Across the school we will be developing our drawing skills this half term. Everyone will have the opportunity to create the templates for Christmas cards and mugs in time for half-term. Year 4 will use their sketch-books from the start of the Autumn Term and we will include portraits from art history throughout the year. Year 4 will draw different faces based on Egyptian art.

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 a Tuesday with Mr Naughton (our Sports Coach) and with me on a Thursday. This term they shall be covering all aspects of Netball play; sending and receiving a ball in a variety of ways, fully understanding their role and position on court, footwork/distance rules and introducing simple tactics to prep them for competitive play. These sessions will also allow for children to learn specific shooting techniques suited to their style and game play.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT (AND SUITABLE FOOTWEAR - TRAINERS FOR OUTDOORS) IS IN SCHOOL ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS - 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.

YEAR 4 HOME LEARNING

Maths and English weekly home learning will be sent out every FRIDAY and should be returned the following WEDNESDAY.

Each task should take on average 30-40 minutes.

Maths and English home learning should be completed in the relevant home learning 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 home learning books please.

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

Spellings: Spelling cards will be given out at the start of each half term. Weekly spellings set on Monday and tested on Friday.

Times Tables: Please practice regularly for a test every Friday.

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

Guided Reading: tasks will be set on a designated day for completion **at home** and handed in for the following week's session with the teacher.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 4th September 2019 - Start of Autumn Term 1

Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 6pm - Meet and Greet

Friday 18th October 2019 - Last day of Autumn Term 1

Monday 28th October 2019 - INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 29th October 2019 - Start of Autumn Term 2

Communication

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 4 team. As always the best way to do this is through the use of your child's PACT. The PACT e-mail is a great tool for communication between home and school, so please do not hesitate in using it. The address is:

Class2015@st-marys-putney.wandsworth.sch.uk

Keep in the loop with social media

The school actively uses two social media platforms to communicate school news and events, so please check them out and follow us:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/PutneySMPS>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PutneySMPS/>

I look forward to seeing you all soon at the meet and greet session on Tuesday 10th September. If you are unable to attend do please come and say hello on the playground when you are next at school.

Kindest regards,

Mr Lett