



St. Mary's C.E. Primary School

Y4

Autumn Term 2

November 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It was lovely to see the children again after the break, excited and prepared for the upcoming term. After the huge efforts that they put into the last half-term, I know that they are ready for the challenges ahead - as well as the fun activities in the lead up to Christmas!

This half-term the class will conclude with their unit of work on 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures'. Year 4 would like to welcome you join us in the classroom on **Friday 11th November at 2.45pm** for a 'Book Look' and chance for the children to show you what we have been learning! The class will then be following a unit of work on a theme that is called 'Living Together'. This theme will mostly be taught through Geography, History, Art, Computing, Society and International. This new topic will kick off with a variety of team building challenges for the children to complete, which I am sure they will find fun and entertaining!

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

English:

In English we will continue reading our *Power of Reading* text 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said. The children have been thoroughly enjoying this book. We will focus on poetry, as well as writing recounts such as newspaper reports and diary entries. The features of explanation texts will then be examined. The grammar and punctuation focus for this half term will be on the use of adjectives, subjects and verbs, and nouns (singular and plural). Neat joined handwriting will be encouraged in independent writing and the children will be expected to increase the fluency of their handwriting. Remember that each week, alongside their set list of spellings to learn, the children will be shown an additional 'Word of the Week' and it will be their responsibility to learn this word. The drama work with the Group 64 Theatre for Young People will also continue. This half-term the children will be focusing on performing their script. The date and time of the actual performance will be **Wednesday 7th December at 2pm**. The performance will take place at the Putney Arts Theatre in which you are all invited to - more details will be sent out in due course.

Maths:

The areas of learning in Maths will be: Mental multiplication and division; Problem solving, reasoning and algebra; Fractions, ratio and proportion; Decimals, percentages and their equivalence to fractions; Number and place value; Written addition and subtraction; Measurement; Statistics; Mental addition and subtraction; Written multiplication and division.

RE:

The topic 'Signs and Symbols' will continue to be taught in these sessions. Reflections on the children's own experiences of signs and symbols will be explored and we will think carefully about why Jesus is 'the light of the world' and 'a good shepherd'. In the run-up to the Christmas period, our topic will be focusing on Jesus and the Gift of Peace. We will be exploring whether peace is the most important message at Christmas.

Computing:

The children will continue with editorial skills in Word (copy and paste, organise work into columns, insert images and crop work to size). We all looking forward to publishing our 'Varjak Paw' poems in English, and for the Living Together unit of work the children will focus on being able to find and use stored information from a variety of sources.

Geography:

For the Living Together unit of work the children will be finding out: how our school meets the needs of the community; about the buildings and services in our local area; about communities in a different country; how to identify the places and areas of interest in our local area.

History:

For the Living Together unit of work the children will be finding out about: the history of our school and its community; about someone who has been significant to the local community; about a historical event that has had an impact on a community.

PSHE:

This term we will be looking at *Celebrating Difference*. The students will be exploring ideas around accepting that everyone is different; inclusion and understanding bullying; and being able to solve problems. Anti-Bullying Week will take place week commencing Monday 14th November.

Society:

For the Living Together unit of work the children will be finding out about the different groups that make up our community and why rules are important for different groups.

International:

For the Living Together unit of work the children will be finding out about different community celebrations around the world.

French:

French vocabulary will be taught covering the following areas: Going to school; in the classroom; the school day; pets; the family.

Art:

In Year 4 this term, we will be researching and responding to the arts and customs of making decorative tableware. This will complement the class topic of 'living together'. Our learning targets will be to learn about how and why we create everyday objects that can be entertaining and beautiful, as well as functional. We will be learning how to design, decorate and paint a blue willow plate. Children will be encouraged to explore a range of ideas, talk about their work and the work of others and share ways in which to make products that are fit for purpose.

Music:

This half term we will be completing our project on telling a story through music then move on to learning a gospel song to develop our singing techniques, particularly focusing on the blues/gospel style. This will lead to experimenting with improvisation, using our voices as well as tuned percussion and the pentatonic scale, which will culminate in group performances. We will also be using our improved singing technique to learn the songs for our Christmas nativity service.

PE:

Year 4 will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday, with Mr Ellis and have a second lesson on a Thursday. This half term's activities will be football and hockey. Pupils will focus on developing dribbling with changes in speed and direction, passing, receiving and shooting. In addition the class will practice linking skills and dribbling to maintain possession in different overloaded situations. Skills will be applied through a range of co-operative and competitive games.

PE LESSONS FOR YEAR 4 WILL TAKE PLACE TWICE A WEEK - EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON AND EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PE KIT (AND SUITABLE FOOTWEAR) IS IN SCHOOL ON MONDAY MORNING 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 HOMEWORK

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!

Maths: Set on Monday handed in on Friday (on average spend 30-40 minutes)

English: Set on Monday handed in on Friday (on average spend 30-40 minutes)

Spellings: Given out on Monday and tested on Friday

Times Tables: Please practise regularly for a test every Monday

Reading: Daily - to be listened to by an adult for at least 20 minutes each evening.

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

Thank you for a great start of the year, and I look forward to seeing you at the **parent-teacher consultations** on either **Wednesday 7th December** or **Thursday 8th December**.

Regards,

Ms. Katie Shand and Miss Overton

Dates For Your Diary:

Holy Communion - Tuesday 8th November

Temples, Tombs and Treasures Exit Point: Friday 11th November

Anti-Bullying Day - Monday 14th November

Christmas Pantomime: Aladdin - Thursday 1st December

KS2 Choir to Putney Market - Friday 2nd December

Group64 Y4 Performance at Putney Arts Theatre - Wednesday 7th December

Parent Meetings - Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th December

Christmas Nativity Service - Wednesday 14th December

Last day of term - 2.30pm Friday 16th December