



St. Mary's C.E. Primary School
Year Four
Autumn Term 2
November 2017

Dear Parents,

We hope all the children had a great break and are coming back refreshed and ready for another enjoyable and hard-working half term in Year 4. Everyone has made a brilliant start to Year 4 and we hope the positive attitude continues! The second half of the Autumn Term begins with wearing our winter school uniform; please make sure your child also brings a coat into school, along with appropriate hats, scarves and gloves when necessary (all labelled please). In PE your child can wear the St. Mary's PE tracksuit if they are too cold wearing shorts and can we please request that children bring an extra pair of socks for PE if tights are being worn to school.

This half-term the class will first conclude with their unit of work on 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures'. A sharing presentation of work by the children to their parents called 'Tomb Exhibition' is scheduled to take place on **Friday 10th November at 2.45pm** and we hope you will be able to join us. Following this unit of work Year 4 will then look at a Science based topic called 'Shake It' which is all about changing and separating materials.

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 writing recounts such as newspaper reports and diary entries. The features of explanation texts will then be examined. Towards the end of the term we will be reading an adapted version of 'A Christmas Carol' to get us ready for the festivities ahead.

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.

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. The children will also have opportunities to use Mathletics to reinforce their learning and it will be great to encourage usage at home as well - all the children have been given a reminder of their logins and passwords.

RE:

We shall first finish our Old Testament heroes topic and then consider the importance of Remembrance in promoting Peace. Our Christmas topic asks the question "Is Peace the Most Important Message of Christmas?" We shall be thinking about what exactly Peace is, how we find Peace within ourselves, what the Bible tells us about Peace and how the Church lives out its message of Peace - especially at Christmas time.

Science:

For the 'Shake It' unit of work the class will be finding out about solids, liquids and gases. This will be explored through the separation and changing of materials and the class will look at how we can change milk into a solid; what happens when butter is heated; about the behaviour of gases in liquids; which solids will dissolve in a liquid; and about the science of making milkshakes. All very exciting!

Computing:

We continue with our Touch Typing Course and also begin our work on Coding. The children can continue to work on their Touch Typing at home and it would be great if they could complete Mathletics tasks regularly too- they all have passwords and log-ins now!

PSHE:

Our theme is Celebrating Difference which explores the ideas of accepting that everyone is different, including others when working and playing, knowing how to help someone who is being bullied, trying to solve problems and use kind words and knowing how to give and receive compliments.

French:

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

Art:

Specialist teaching of lessons will be provided by Mrs Forsyth. We will focus on religious icons and the decorative techniques used to create the images, including gilding.

Music:

This half term we will be completing our project on telling a story through music then move on to our theme for this half term which is recycling, to link in with the class's topic 'Shake It'. Using junk items, we will be creating our own instruments, exploring the different sounds we can make with them, then using them to improvise, compose and play junk jazz music in a variety of musical structures. We will also be learning the songs for our Christmas nativity.

PE:

Year 4 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday, with Mr Ellis and on a Wednesday with Mrs Thomas. This half term's activity will be hockey. Pupils will focus on dribbling with changes in speed and direction, performing a push pass and moving into space. In addition the class will practice their block tackle, link dribbling, passing and receiving. These 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 WEDNESDAY 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 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.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of the Year 4 team with any queries or questions you may have. 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.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to formally meeting you during our **parent-teacher consultations** later in the term.

Kindest regards
Amanda Bishop
Tina Thomas