



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Endurance ~ Compassion ~ Thankfulness

Year 4: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Autumn Term 2, November 2019

Dear Parents,

Wow - where did the first half of the autumn term go? Well we are ready and raring to go for the second half and of course we will be enjoying the big countdown to Christmas! Everyone has made a brilliant start to Year 4 and we hope the positive attitude and good effort towards learning continues! As the weather gets colder please make sure your child brings a coat into school, along with appropriate hats, scarves and gloves when necessary (all labelled please).



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 **Wednesday 27th 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.

School trip

Year 4 will be visiting The British Museum to complement their learning on the topic Temples, Tombs and Treasures. This will take place on Monday 2nd December 2019 - further details will be sent home in a separate letter in due course.

The Curriculum

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 'Mouse Bird Snake Wolf' by David Almond. This powerful text, illustrated in graphic novel-style, will enable children to explore the beauty and dangers of nature, providing great stimulus for writing both narratives and non-fiction pieces.

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. Please ensure you have the new spelling card and that your child practices the weekly spellings daily and brings the card in every Friday so they can record their result in the test.

Maths

Year 4 will continue mastering maths by exploring and developing their skills in the topics of 'addition and subtraction', 'measurement: perimeter' and 'multiplication and division'. This will include adding two 4-digit numbers, subtracting two 4-digit numbers, estimating answers, checking strategies and problem solving, finding the perimeter of a rectangle, finding the perimeter of rectilinear shapes, multiplying and dividing by multiples of 10 and 100, multiplying by 0 and 1, dividing by 1, multiplying and dividing by 6, 9 and 7, looking at the 11 and 12 times tables.

RE

In our topic **Why is Remembrance Important?** We shall reflect upon the reasons it is important to remember the two World Wars and other conflicts, and 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.

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, using kind words and knowing how to give and receive compliments.

Computing

In computing the children will continue touch typing and learning to code with HTML. The children will work on various projects that will include positioning images to create a robot, creating stickers to decorate web pages and using CSS to create an animated sunrise.

History

Continuing the **Temple, Tombs and Treasures** unit of work the children will be finding out how to write using hieroglyphics; finding out about the different rulers of Egypt; exploring how the pyramids may have been built; using sources to find out about Ancient Sumer; and comparing life in Ancient Sumer with life in Ancient Egypt.

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!

French

Madame Baig will be teaching French in Year 4 every Wednesday afternoon. Topics to be covered include zoo animals, on the way to school, developing descriptions, using *i/and elle* and of course exploring Christmas in France!

Art and Design

Mrs Adams will teach Year 4 these lessons. The class will continue using Tutankhamun's death mask as a focus in their lessons. They will work in pairs to design, model and paint a death mask. They will develop their modelling skills with Modroc.

Music

Mrs Le Prevost will teach these lessons. This half term the class will be completing their project on telling a story through music. They will then move on to the new theme for this half term which is recycling, to link in with the class's topic **Shake It**. Using junk items, the children will be creating their own instruments, exploring the different sounds they can make with them, then using them to improvise, compose and play junk jazz music in a variety of musical structures. The class will also be learning the songs for the school's Christmas nativity.

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 half term Y4 shall start basketball. Here they shall learn to pass, send and receive effectively, movement in and out of space, basic defending and then small sided games at a pace that suits them. Within these sessions the children shall be encouraged to think tactically about their game play.

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

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

Tuesday 29th October 2019 - Start of Autumn Term 2

Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th November 2018 - Progress in Learning Meetings 4-7pm

Friday 8th November 2019 - MUFTI Day (non-uniform day) for Christmas Fair donations

Friday 8th November 2019 at 9.15am - Celebration Worship

Monday 11th November 2019 at 9.15am - Remembrance Worship for Armistice Day

Tuesday 12th November 2019 - Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 29th November 2019 at 9.15am - Celebration Worship

Monday 2nd December 2019 - Year 4 Trip to The British Museum

Friday 6th December 2019 at 2.45pm - FoSMS Christmas Fayre

Friday 13th December 2019 at 1.45pm - Dick Whittington Pantomime

Thursday 19th December 2019 at 9.45am - Nativity Service at St. Mary's Church

Friday 20th December 2019 - Christmas Jumper Day! Christmas Dinner!

Friday 20th December 2019 - Last Day of Term - school finishes 2.30pm!

Monday 6th January 2020 - INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 7th January 2020 - Start of Spring Term 1

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/>

Kindest regards,

Mr Lett