



St. Mary's C.E. Primary School
Year Four
Spring Term 1
January 2017

Dear parents and carers,

A very warm welcome back to the New Year in Year 4! I hope you all had a fantastic and restful break.

This half-term the class will conclude their community unit of work 'Living Together'. The class will then follow a new unit of work on the theme 'Chocolate'. During this unit the class will be focusing on chocolate in *Geography*, *History*, *Science*, *Technology*, *Art* and *International*, as well as linking in some of their English work through the study of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl.

Please find below an outline of the curriculum that will commence this new half-term:

English:

This term we are reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl, which will link perfectly with the Chocolate unit of work. Comparisons the original book and the film, will be explored and open up many opportunities for writing, including exploring the features of play scripts, information texts and persuasive texts. Grammar work will focus on their understanding and use of exclamation marks, past and present tense verbs, and their use of adverbs. During our *Guided Reading* sessions the children will continue to develop their comprehension skills.

Maths:

The areas of learning in Maths will be: Measurement; Number and place value; Problem solving, reasoning and algebra; Written addition and subtraction; Mental multiplication and division; Written multiplication and division; Fractions, ratio and proportion; Geometry and properties of shapes; Mental addition and subtraction. The children will continue to have opportunities to use *Mathletics* to reinforce their learning and the use of this at home should be encouraged.

Science:

The children will be finding out about the ingredients in chocolate, if chocolate causes tooth decay, why chocolate wrappers are made from special materials and what the melting point of chocolate is.

Geography:

The children will be finding out where cacao trees are found, about the factors affecting the growth of cacao trees and about other cash crops.

History:

The children will be finding out who first discovered chocolate, who took the first chocolate to Europe and about the importance of cocoa beans for trade.

RE:

The study of Judaism will take place this term. The class will learn about Jewish customs, religious festivals and family life. We will also learn about the symbols used in the Jewish faith and find out more about the Torah.

Computing:

The children will develop their general word processing and presentation skills in software like Word. For the Chocolate unit of work the children will focus on being able to find and use stored information from a variety of sources.

PSHE:

This term we will be covering Dreams and Goals. We will be looking at working hard to set and achieve personal and group goals. We will explore the steps we need to take to be successful, and identify the contributions made by ourselves to help group achievement.

International:

The children will be finding out what fair trade chocolate is, what other fair trade products there are and how important chocolate is.

French:

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

Art:

This term Year 4 will be focusing on printing techniques and creating pieces of artwork inspired by the class topics.

Technology:

The children will be finding out how to make their own chocolate and what they can add to chocolate to produce their own chocolate bar.

Music:

Mrs Le Provost will provide specialist teaching of music for Year 4. This half term, we will first complete our project on gospel music and improvisation from last term, then, using food and drink as our theme (particularly chocolate!) we will be creating and performing sequences of sound and word rhythms using food and drink images from around the world as stimuli. We will also be looking at the structure of music, in particular the rondo format, and building up to a class piece in rondo form.

PE:

Year 4 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday, with Mr Ellis and have a second lesson on a Thursday. This half term's activity will be gymnastics. Pupils will learn to hold a range of balances, including inverted balances and hang on climbing apparatus. In addition the class will practice different jumps, extend the range of rolls they can perform and create sequences by linking different elements learnt.

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 LABELED 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 Maths or English homework book taken home by your child. The emphasis being not just on completion, but also neatness! Any worksheets should be **trimmed and stuck into the homework book please.**

Maths: Set on Monday to be handed in on Friday (30 minutes)

English: Set on Monday to be handed in on Friday (30 minutes)

Spellings: Given out on Monday and tested on Friday

Times Tables: Please practise regularly for a test every Monday

Reading: Daily 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 again for your continued support,
Ms Katie Shand