



**St. Mary's C.E. Primary School**  
Year Four  
Spring Term 1  
January 2018



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for 2018!

This half term the class will begin the highly anticipated unit of work on the theme: 'Chocolate'. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups to explore this great topic.

A trip to Cadbury's World has been booked for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March - more information to follow shortly!

As this topic continues into next half term our Exit Point will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm - all parents invited!

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

**English:**

Our Power of Reading text this term is, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl, which will link perfectly with the Chocolate unit of work. Our writing will focus on the following genres: Narrative, Instructions, Report and Poetry. Our grammar focus will be on the use of fronted adverbials and Standard English and our punctuation focus will be on inverted commas and other speech punctuation and apostrophes for possession and contraction. Spellings will continue to be set each week and the spelling card needs to be in school every Friday - this half term we will be exploring word endings. 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.

**RE:**

Following our trip to Southwark Cathedral in October, we shall be considering the question: *Should every Christian go on a Pilgrimage?* We shall investigate what a pilgrimage is, where in the world pilgrims travel to and why they go there. We shall also discover how pilgrimage is important to other faiths.

**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.

**International:**

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

**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.

### **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:**

Our topic for this half term is *Dreams and Goals*, in which we shall discuss and reflect upon our hopes and goals and learn how to overcome disappointment, create new dreams and achieve our goals

### **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:** Mrs Forsyth will continue to teach Art on Monday afternoons - we shall also be doing some detailed pencil illustrations and designs in class linked to our topic and Power of Reading text.

### **Music:**

This half term, we will be using food and drink as our theme (particularly chocolate!) and 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 on a Wednesday with Mrs Thomas. This half term's activity will be gymnastics. Pupils will focus on performing a variety of rolls and jumps in different shapes. In addition the class will practice balances on different levels, inverted balances and hanging on climbing apparatus. Similar skills will be linked and developed to create individual and paired sequences in space.

**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 Friday and should be returned the following Wednesday - note that this is a change from last term and in response to parental feedback.**

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 practise 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.

If you have any queries about the daily routine, 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 our PACT email system. Messages are checked daily by 9am and we will always endeavor to reply to you as soon as possible.

The Year 4 team is looking forward to a very busy and productive half term ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Kindest regards  
Amanda Bishop  
Tina Thomas  
Claire Overton