



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Endurance ~ Compassion ~ Thankfulness

Year 4: Half Termly Letter to Parents

Spring Term 2, February 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all managed to have an enjoyable half-term break with your child(ren) and the rest of your family? It's nice to see the children return happily to school and ready to continue their learning...

This half-term the class will get stuck into our very exciting topic on 'Chocolate' - the trip to Cadbury World is next week on Monday 2nd March and we are really looking forward to this day out. In the latter half of this term the class will begin a new topic - 'Living Together'.



The Curriculum

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

English

In English we will focus our book study on '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: narratives, instructions and reports. The class will also explore poetry with our *Power of Reading* anthology called 'Hot Like Fire and Other Poems' by Valerie Bloom. The poems are a wonderful mix of Standard English and dialect that are a delight to hear and read. The children will have the chance to read the poems and explore the language used. They will then be given opportunities to write their own poetry pieces.

Grammar focus will be on the use of Standard English and conjunctions to extend sentences. Our punctuation focus will be on using commas for lists, pauses and to make the meaning clear. Neat joined handwriting will continue to be encouraged in independent writing across subjects, not just in English! Please ensure the children have their new spelling card and that your child practices the weekly spellings daily. They should bring the card in every Friday so they can record their result in the test.

Maths

Year 4 will continue with the unit of learning on 'multiplication and division', followed by 'fractions' and 'decimals'. This will include multiplying and dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number, multiplying and dividing a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number, division with remainders, multiplication and division word problems, tenths and hundredths, equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, fractions greater than 1, adding and subtracting fractions, calculating fractions of a quantity and dividing decimals by 10 and 100.

Most of Year 4 are now taking part in '100 Club' for their weekly times tables test every Friday. This is a 100 question test on a mix of times tables up to 12x12 and the challenge for the children is for them to complete the test within 5 minutes! As soon as they get all 100 correct they will be given a 100 Club card to record their times. They should bring the card in every Friday so they can record their result. It is really important at this stage of the year that the children are regularly practising all multiplication tables. The MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) will take place in June and we would like all of our children to achieve their best in this new statutory check.

RE

We almost finished our topic on Judaism - *What Does It Mean to Be a Jew?* - and have planned a visit to Wimbledon Synagogue on Thursday 23rd April, soon after the Easter holidays. More details will follow nearer to the time and we shall be grateful for your support in accompanying the children on this trip. Our next topic for this term is called *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. Towards the end of term, our Easter topic will be *How does Holy Communion build a Christian Community?* We shall be reflecting upon: what Jesus said and did about Communion and how Christians remember this today; how and why Christians share in the Body and Blood of Jesus, particularly at Church; how the act of sharing Communion demonstrates God's Peace.

PSHE

This half-term the class will look at a unit of work called 'Healthy Me'. This will look at making healthy choices such as eating a balanced diet and being physically active. The unit will also explore friendships and knowing how to be a good friend, keeping safe and keeping calm in difficult situations.

Computing

In our computing lessons the children will use coding software called Scratch to plan and design a 'chatbot'. Skills to be learnt include creating a variable, asking questions in Scratch, using selection, testing and debugging a program. The class will continue to use a touch typing program to help them increase their keyboard skills.

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.

For the Living Together unit of work the children will be finding out about the history of our school and its community and about someone who has been significant to the local community.

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, what fair trade chocolate is, what other fair trade products there are and how important chocolate is.

When the class moves onto the Living Together unit of work the children will be finding out how our school meets the needs of the community and about the buildings and services in our local area.

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.

Design 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.

French

Madame Baig will continue to teach French in Year 4 every Wednesday afternoon with a focus on hobbies and activities, sports and activities people like (or do not like), expressing opinions about activities using j'aime, je n'aime pas, je déteste and j'adore. The class will also learn about some customs and traditions related to Easter in France.

Art and Design

Mrs Adams will continue to teach Year 4 these lessons and the theme of Chocolate will continue to inspire! They will develop their modelling skills making chocolates from clay and then design and create a box.

Music

Mrs Le Prevost will continue to teach music. This half term Year 4 will be learning a gospel song to develop their singing techniques, particularly focusing on the blues/gospel style. They will be introduced to improvisation and how they can use their voices to improvise as well as on tuned percussion using the pentatonic scale. This will lead to creating a performance which we will record so that they can evaluate how they did.

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 Handball. 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 will 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

Monday 24th February 2020 at 8.50am - Start of Spring Term 2
Friday 28th February 2020 - DT Day (textiles project)
Monday 2nd March 2020 - Year 4 Trip to Cadbury World
Friday 6th March 2020 - World Book Day Celebration
Wednesday 11th March 2020 - Year 4 Godly Play at St. Mary's Church
Friday 13th March 2020 at 9.15am - Celebration Worship
Thursday 19th March 2020 at 2.45pm - Chocolate Topic Exit Point
Friday 20th March 2020 at 9.45am - Mothering Service at St. Mary's Church
Tuesday 24th March 2020 at 5.00pm - Spring Concert
Wednesday 25th March 2020 4-7pm - Progress in Learning Meetings
Thursday 26th March 2020 4-7pm - Progress in Learning Meetings
Friday 3rd April 2020 at 9.15am - Celebration Worship
Friday 3rd April 2020 at 2.30pm - End of Spring Term 2
Monday 20th April 2020 at 8.50am - Start of Summer 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/>

Exit Point

The class would like to showcase to their parents the work completed from the Chocolate topic on the afternoon of Thursday 19th March at 2.45pm. If you are able to attend that would be great.

I will also look forward to seeing you at the 'Progress in Learning' meetings later on in March.

Kindest regards,

Mr Lett