



St. Mary's C.E. Primary School

Year Four

Summer Term 1

April 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We hope you all had a wonderful and restful Easter holiday. This half-term will see the class following a unit of work that is called 'Saving the World'. This theme focuses on the rainforests of the world and will mostly be taught through Geography and Science.

Please find below an outline of the Year 4 curriculum:

English:

Our next Power of Reading text is the wonderful, **Mama Miti and the Trees of Kenya** written by Donna Jo Napoli and illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Through lyrical prose and strikingly beautiful illustrations, the true story of Wangari Muta Maathai, known as "Mama Miti," is told. In 1977 Mama Miti founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organisation that has empowered many people to mobilise and combat deforestation, soil erosion and environmental degradation. Today more than 30 million trees have been planted throughout Mama Miti's native Kenya, and in 2004 she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The overall learning aims of this teaching sequence are: to engage and inspire children to engage with literature, to explore global, political, socio-economic and environmental issues through a narrative text, to develop creative responses to the text through drama, storytelling and artwork and to write with confidence for real purposes and audiences.

Grammar work this term will focus on developing understanding of prepositions, subordinate clauses, and expanded noun phrases. Skills in comprehension will continue to be developed through their *Guided Reading* sessions. It is important that all children are listened to when reading at home to help maintain their fluency, but more importantly for you to question them and provide discussion about what they are reading.

Maths:

Maths work will focus on:

Reading, writing and comparing large numbers

Reading, using and comparing negative numbers in the context of temperature

Multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100 - including decimals

Developing and using effective mental multiplication strategies

Using vertical written methods to multiply 2-digit and 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers - in the context of money

Understanding how division 'undoes' multiplication and vice versa

Recognising and reading Roman numerals to 100

Calculating area and perimeter

Naming, classifying and sorting 2D shapes

Revising 3D shapes

Recognising decimal and fraction equivalents

Science:

For the 'Saving the World' unit of work the children will be finding out: about different rainforest animals and plants; where different animals and plants live in the rainforest; why plants have leaves and why they can be different; about the best conditions to grow a plant; about rainforest fruits and seeds; how to grow our own rainforest plant from a seed.

Geography:

For the 'Saving the World' unit of work the children will be finding out: about where rainforests are in the world; which rainforest products we use in our everyday lives; about the lives of rainforest people and how they compare with our own; how and why the rainforest is being destroyed; discovering the ways that people are trying to save the rainforest.

RE:

Our topic this half term is **What Do the Miracles of Jesus Teach?** We shall be discussing and reflecting upon what constitutes a miracle, the difference between magic and miracles and what the miracles of Jesus' ministry teach Christians about being people of God. We shall also compare similarities and differences on the subject of miracles in other faiths.

PSHE:

This half-term the class will look at a unit of work called 'Relationships'. This will look at solving friendship problems when they occur, helping others to feel part of a group, showing respect to one another, and knowing how to help themselves and others when they feel upset or hurt.

International:

For the 'Saving the World' unit of work the children will be finding out how different countries and organisations are helping to save our rainforests.

French:

Madame Cox will be teaching the class to understand and use expressions for different types of weather, learn the words for the seasons and begin to talk about the summer; what is the weather like, what clothes will we wear? We shall also be consolidating the language we have learnt this term.

Music:

We will be going 'around the world' in Year 4 music this half term, exploring pentatonic melodies and syncopated rhythms using different music styles from around the world. We will also link in with their class topic of Rainforests and saving the world, creating our own pentatonic melodies using the rainforest as our inspiration, at the same time developing their understanding of musical notation.

Art and Design:

As usual the programme in Art Room for the first half of the summer term has been set by the art team from FOSMS and this year we will be creating work on the exciting theme of 'Cool Britannia! A number of children have researched the theme over the Easter break; others are starting this week- simple ideas often work best. The FOSMS team are organising a fantastic exhibition of the work plus workshops and refreshments on 19 May so please put the date in your diary. The theme allocated to Year 4 is 'British Sports'.

PE:

Year 4 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday and Wednesday. This half term's activity will be tennis. Pupils will focus on moving to receive by playing throw-catch tennis and striking a moving ball with the forehand, backhand and volley. In addition the class will practice serving, maintaining a rally and shot placement. Skills will be applied through a range of co-operative and competitive games.

YEAR 4 HOME LEARNING

Maths and English weekly homework 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 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

Reading: Daily - to be listened to by an adult for at least 10 minutes each evening - if possible.

For your information the Year 4 tests in English and Maths will take place during the week beginning 14th May.

Other useful dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 18th April Visit to Jewish Synagogue
- Wednesday 25th April KS2 Communion - All welcome
- Friday 27th April Celebration Assembly - All welcome
- Monday 7th May: School Closed for May Day Bank Holiday
- Thursday 10th May Cadbury's World Trip
- Friday 11th May Celebration Assembly - All welcome
- Friday 18th May Whole School Photograph
- Saturday 19th May FOSMs Art Exhibition
- 21-25th May Christian Aid Week
- Friday 25th May: Last day of half-term

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Bishop

Mrs Thomas

Miss Overton