



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Spring 2nd Half Term: February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you had an enjoyable half term and that your children are looking forward to the second half of the Spring term in Year 4.

Please refer to the table below, for a brief overview of the learning experiences that the children will have in each subject, during this half term.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	<p>Linked to our Geography topic this half term, we will begin the term by reading <i>The Great Kapok Tree</i> by Lynne Cherry. We will use this text, along with our Geography learning, to develop our persuasive writing skills. We will also be looking at the features of a report and writing our own. We will then be reading the book <i>Gregory Cool</i> by Caroline Binch. We will use this text to describe and compare different characters.</p> <p>We will use the text, events that take place in the story and the illustrations to write character descriptions. Our grammar and spelling focus will include homophones, apostrophes for contraction and possession, expanded noun phrases and how to use a dictionary. We will continue to be learning words from the Year 3 / 4 spelling list.</p>
Reading	<p>The children will be reading on a regular basis, continuing to develop their fluency in reading and broadening their vocabulary. When reading and through different curriculum topics, children will be encouraged to ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge.</p> <p>We will continue to work on reading further 'exception' words and applying growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes to support reading. The use of dictionaries is encouraged to find the meanings of unfamiliar words.</p>
Maths	<p>During Maths sessions, we will be learning about place value in 4-digit numbers, subtracting using the column method and adding and subtracting money using both written and mental methods.</p> <p>We will also be rounding decimals and learning how to multiply and divide 3-digit numbers. We will also learn how to tell the time on the 24-hour clock and how to calculate perimeter. Times tables will continue to be a very important part of your child's learning.</p>
Science	<p>The unit for this half-term is entitled <i>Who am I?</i> In this module children will further develop the understanding of keys they gained in the Year 3 rocks module, using them to identify animals from a range of habitats. They will also construct keys, learning to ask yes/no questions about characteristic differences between</p>

	the animals. They will learn about pond and seashore animals and common land.
Computing	Our unit this half term is titled <i>Writing for Different Audiences</i> . The children will learn that technology can be used to organise, reorganise, develop and explore ideas and that working with information in this way can help understanding. It also gives children the opportunity to consider how ICT is used in the wider world.
PSHE	The unit for this half-term is entitled 'Healthy Me'. The children will recognise how different friendship groups are formed and how they fit into them, understanding the roles of leaders and followers. We will move on to discussing the effects of smoking and alcohol on health.
Geography	Our Geography topic this half term is 'Rainforests'. We will begin by describing what a rainforest is and locating the world's rainforests on a map. We will look at the key characteristics of the Congo and explain the impact of deforestation. We will end our topic by exploring the importance of the Amazon Rainforest.
Art	Our topic is entitled <i>Festival Feasts</i> . We will be exploring artists who have made sculptures of food, such as Claes Oldenburg. The children will develop their drawing skills by drawing from still imagery and from life. We will then be making our own sculptures to create a 'corner shop'.
RE	In RE, we will explore 'The Kingdom of God'. The children will think about and discuss the impact of Pentecost, when Jesus left.
Music	This half term, our unit is <i>How Does Music Shape Our Way of Life?</i> We will be listening to and learning some gospel songs and considering the connection between notes and feelings.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to be set on Google Classroom. It will consist of a Maths and English/Topic task, spellings and focus times tables. It will be set on a **Friday** and needs to be completed and turned in by **Wednesday**. A photo can be taken of the learning and then uploaded and submitted to Google Classroom.

In addition to these home learning tasks, we recommend that children also engage with RM Easi-Maths and TT Rockstars on a regular basis. Please let a member of the Year 4 team know, if you need any help accessing these platforms

Reading

One of the most important ways in which you can support your child's learning is to ensure that they engage with 10-15 minutes reading every day. It is really helpful if you can take some time to read with your child and discuss what they have read. Whilst reading, it would be great if you could encourage your child to make **predictions** and **ask questions** about the text. Try to help them identify and **clarify** words or phrases that they are unsure about and encourage them to **summarise** a paragraph or page that they have just read. This will help to support their developing comprehension skills. It is also beneficial to read aloud to your children. When your child finishes reading a book, they will have the opportunity to complete an Accelerated Reader quiz at school. The children will keep a reading record (paper copy) in school, on which they will record the book titles they are reading, a brief comment and any 'Accelerated Reader' quiz scores that they achieve.

P.E.

We will be having a coached PE session on Tuesdays. The class will also have PE on Mondays. On these days, children will need to **come in to school wearing their PE kit**. This should consist of their

school PE t-shirt, jogging bottoms/PE shorts and trainers (not plimsolls, due to possible wet weather). If your child has long hair, please ensure that it is tied back on P.E. days.

What will my child need in school?

- **Named** school jumper/cardigan/coat
- Named water bottle (water fountains are still not in use)
- Children may bring to school a small school bag if they wish or a school book bag.
- Your child will need **one** pencil case containing pencils, handwriting pen, red pen, small ruler, eraser, sharpener (one that holds sharpenings), colouring pencils, small glue stick.
- Small packet of tissues, and we also ask for any donations of larger tissue boxes for the classroom please.

If you have any questions, please contact the class team via the School Office email.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Prados and Mrs Oliver