



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Autumn 1 Half Term: September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to year 4!

We would like to wish all of the children a very warm welcome back to school and into a new academic year. We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and that children are looking forward to a very exciting year ahead!

You should have received an e-mail in July regarding the very exciting residential trip which will be taking place in March 2024. Please keep an eye out for updates regarding parent information evening on this which will be happening closer to the time.

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>This term, children will be looking at the visual text '<i>La Luna</i>'. Children will be using their 'fab four reading strategies' to make predictions and summarise the story. We will have a focus on expanding our vocabulary this half term and be using a thesaurus to expand our vocabulary. We will be writing setting descriptions and an opening narrative to the story. We will also be writing a newspaper report. As part of our grammar focus this term, children will be learning and applying expanded noun phrases, using inverted commas to show direct speech and be using adverbials and fronted adverbials. Handwriting and editing our writing will be a consistent feature of our learning in English.</p> <p>Our spelling focus for the term will recap some previous learning from year 3 and looking at the 'ch', 'ou' and 'ei' sounds before moving on to looking at 'ure' word endings and some prefixes.</p>
Reading	<p>Our reading focus this term will focus on our 'Fab Four Reading strategies'. Children will be using their sequencing and clarifying skills as well as making predictions and raising queries about texts and ask questions to improve understanding. Children will also be looking at the author (in this case, director's) viewpoint of the text and identify the effect of context of a text.</p>
Maths	<p>Our focus in maths this term is all about place value. We will be looking at representing and partitioning and ordering numbers up to 10,000. Children will also be looking at number lines and how to estimate on a number line. There will also be a focus on rounding numbers to the nearest 10,100 and 1000. There will be opportunities to recap previous learning with 'flashback 4's.</p> <p>Multiplication underpins much of the learning in maths. Fluency in times tables is an extremely important feature in year 4. Children will be regularly logging in to platforms such as TT rockstars and Mymaths at school. It is essential that children are engaging and using these at home where possible to consolidate and support their learning.</p>

Science	Our Science unit this term will be 'Switched On - Electricity'. These sessions will be led by Mrs Williams, usually on a Thursday afternoon and will be as practical as possible. The children will explore the production of light, sound and movement by making simple series circuits with cells, wires, bulbs, buzzers and motors, learning the names of the components.
Computing	Our learning in computing this term is all about E-safety. Children will be learning about how they can protect themselves from identity theft, learning about the risks and benefits of installing software and how to balance their own screen time with their daily lives.
History	We are learning all about the Romans in history. As well as focussing on core historical skills such as chronology, we will be looking at who occupied Britain before the Romans, who Boudicca was and the results of her revolts. We will also be learning about what life was like in Roman Britain and thinking about the question, 'how did the Romans influence our lives today?'
PHSE	Our PSHE this term is all about 'Being Me in My World'. In this unit we explore: how to empathise with others, how groups come together to make decisions and how actions and attitudes make a difference in a class.
DT	Linking with our science learning all about electricity, children will be making 'electric pictures'. They will be thinking about circuits, what they need and do as well as designing, making and evaluating their creations.
RE	This term in RE, children will be learning about the 'People of God' and the story of Noah. We will be exploring what it is like to follow God Children will be looking at the story of Noah's Ark and thinking about why God chose Noah. Children will also be thinking about covenants and thinking about what they can do to make the world a better place to live in.
Music	This half term, Year 4 will be looking at music and how it is structured (how verses and choruses can repeat or alternate) using Charanga Music and thinking about the question 'How does music bring us together?' This unit celebrates a wide range of musical styles. The children will be listening to, singing, playing, composing and performing music. Three focus songs of the unit are: Hoedown, I'm Always There and Martin Luther King.

Home Learning

Home learning will continue to be set on Google Classroom. It will consist of a piece English and Maths homework. It will be set on a **Friday** and needs to be completed and turned in by **Tuesday**. 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 TT Rockstars and Times table games on Purple Mash, on a regular basis. Please let a member of the Year 4 team know, if you need any help accessing these platforms.

Please note that although I will look at all home learning, you will not always comment unless necessary. We will go over any common mistakes or things we find tricky in class. I may return your work so you know I have looked at it.

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.

Year 4 PE days are: Wednesday and Friday

We will continue to have a coached PE session on Friday. The class will also have PE on a Wednesday. 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). **Please also ensure that any long hair is tied back for all PE lessons.**

What does my child need in school?

- As the weather is often unpredictable, please ensure your child is wearing layers as the classroom windows will remain open for ventilation throughout the year.
- **Named** school jumper/cardigan/coat
- **Named** water bottle
- Children **may** bring a bag to school. Please make sure that this is not too big to avoid hazards in the cloakroom
- Your child will need a **small pencil case** containing pencils, handwriting pen, small ruler, eraser, sharpener (one that holds sharpenings), colouring pencils, small glue stick. **All equipment should be able to fit inside children's trays.**
- Small packet of tissues for your child to keep in their trays. ***We also kindly ask for any donations of larger tissue boxes for the classroom.***
- Please replenish **handwriting pens, pencils and in particular, glue sticks**
- Children should not be bringing in toys/bits and pieces from home to keep in their trays or in their bags. Please refrain from bringing personal items to school. Please encourage your children to leave such items at home and not in their pencil cases or bags.

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

Many thanks for your continued support.

Philippa Georgiou