



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Spring 1 Half Term: January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas break and we wish you all a very happy and healthy new year! Thank you very much for your congratulations following my personal news. I look forward to another exciting 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>This term we are reading the fantastic story of 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane'. The story follows the journey of a 'china rabbit' who goes on a journey through life experiencing many problems and learning lots along the way. The text is the first chapter book the children have explored in year 4 and much of the focus relies on the skills listed in the reading section below. With such a rich text, our learning of this text will also feature next term. Children will also be recapping much of the grammar they have come across before such as looking at fronted adverbials, pronouns and apostrophes. We will also be looking at pronouns and tense agreement. Our writing focus this term will explore a fairytale (one of which is featured in the text) and children will be writing their own fairytale.</p> <p>Our spelling focus for the term will be looking at year 3 and 4 words 'ture' and 'gu' words.</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. With such a fantastic rich text, there will also be a focus on vocabulary, understanding and learning new words in context. We will also be drawing inferences such as characters feelings, thoughts and motives and justifying these with evidence from the text.</p>
Maths	<p>In maths this term, our focus will be on multiplication and division. We focus on many new concepts which include factors and factor pairs and multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. Children will also be looking at written methods of multiplication and division, specifically multiplying 2 and 3 digits by a 1 digit number. Our learning will then move on to begin to look briefly at length and perimeter. This includes measuring in KM and M, perimeter of a rectangle and perimeter on a grid.</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. You can also access other times table games on line such as timestables.co.uk. It is essential that children are engaging and using these at home where possible to consolidate and support their learning. You will also find on Google Classrooms a range of times table songs which many children find beneficial to help them learn their tables more fluently. Please keep using these if they suit your child's way of learning as much as possible.</p>

Science	This term Year 4 will be introduced to the concept of states of matter. Children will learn the characteristic properties of solids, liquids and gases. Using first-hand experience and secondary sources they will learn about changes of state and begin to understand freezing and boiling points as identifying characteristics of a material. This module focuses on reversible changes.
Computing	We are learning all about spreadsheets this half term. This includes learning how to format cells, making line graphs, using a spreadsheet for budgeting. Linking with our maths, we will also explore place value with a spreadsheet.
History	Our history topic this term is entitled 'Windrush'. This unit explores the history of the 'Empire Windrush'. Children will explore who the Windrush generation are, where they are today, what impact the Windrush generation have had on Britain today and how this historical event is celebrated.
PHSE	In PSHE this term we are looking at 'The Zones of Regulation'. In this unit, children will learn to recognise emotions and the feelings. It allows us to learn about self-regulation and provides children with a way to think and talk about how they feel on the inside and sorts emotions into four coloured Zones, all of which are expected in life. We will explore each zone and talk about the 'sizes of problems' and the 'size of a reaction'.
DT	In DT this term, children will be making pencil cases. This includes creating a pencil case mood board (for home learning), exploring existing products, designing and making their own pencil cases- including a prototype.
RE	In RE, we are learning about Hinduism and focusing specifically on the concept of 'dharma' and the story of Rama and Sita. We will explore the concept of a 'duty' and what this means to Hindus and other people. Children will then explore why Rama and Sita are inspirations, what dharma is and how their story inspires Hindus to follow their own 'dharma'.
Music	This term Year 4 will explore how special effects in music can make the words we sing more meaningful. The sounds that we hear in music can also help to communicate specific moods. Sometimes, the music we hear highlights the words we are singing! There might be a special effect in the music or a particular song lyric to make that word stand out. Using this we will explore how music helps us connect with our past.

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 plastic/metal 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