



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Spring 2 Half Term: February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had an enjoyable half term. We are looking forward to a very exciting half term with Year 4's first residential trip just around the corner. We also have many other exciting things to look forward to including, Science week, science workshops and World Book Day.

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 continuing to read the fantastic story of 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane'. The children have absolutely been gripped and excited by such an amazing story. We will finish the story whilst continuing to focus on the reading skills listed in the reading section below. Children will also be recapping much of the grammar they have come across before such as subordinate clauses, conjunctions and commas. . Our writing focus this term will be to write our own chapter of the story.</p> <p>Later on in the term we will be exploring the text, 'The Great Kapok Tree' which links with our learning to rainforests in Geography. In this unit, we will be exploring persuasive techniques and persuasive language and writing a persuasive letter.</p> <p>Our spelling focus for the term will be looking at year 3 and 4 words, the prefix, anti/inter and looking at word endings spelt cian, sion, tion and ssion.</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 fractions and decimals. Children will be looking at comparing and ordering mixed numbers, understanding improper fractions and converting mixed numbers to improper fractions. We will also be looking at adding fractions and mixed numbers and subtracting from mixed numbers. We will then move on to decimals and dividing 1 and 2 digits by 10, looking at hundredths as fractions and place value of decimals.</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	<p>This half term we are going to explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. We are going to think about different ways we can group different living things and learn specifically about vertebrate and invertebrates.</p>
Computing	<p>In computing, children will be looking at writing for different audiences. They will be exploring how font size and style can affect the impact of a text. They will also be looking at simulated scenarios to produce a news report. Linking with our English text, we will be using the scenario of deforestation to copy up our persuasive letters.</p>

Geography	This term in Geography, we are learning about 'rainforests'. We are looking at the where the world's rainforests are located, the features of a rainforest, what makes up a rainforest and looking at deforestation and why the rainforests are being chopped down.
PHSE	Our learning in PSHE is all about 'healthy me'. This explores friendships and looking at issues such as identifying feelings about friendships, understanding different roles within friendship groups, recognising peer pressure and looking at alcohol and its effects on health.
DT	In DT this term, children will be continuing our unit on making pencil cases. This includes exploring existing products, designing and making their own pencil cases- including a prototype.
RE	Our learning theme this half term is salvation. Children will be exploring the question, how does believing in Jesus is the saviour inspire Christians to save and serve others? We will be looking at the term saviour and think about what it might mean to be saved. Children will also be learning about examples in the Bible of Jesus bringing salvation and looking at the Salvation Army and look at why and how they serve others.
Music	This half term we will be learning that Improvisation in music is a way to express our feelings. Music comes from our hearts. Our goal is to make our improvisation more expressive by adding dynamics.

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.

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