



# 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 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 4!

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all the children as we begin a new academic year. We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and that you are looking forward to the exciting year ahead!

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 half term, we will be reading two exciting books: <i>How to be a Roman</i> (Collins Big Cat) and <i>Boudica</i> (Collins Big Cat). Both texts are closely linked to our Autumn 1 History topic on the Romans. Through these books, the children will explore the many ways the Romans influenced how we live today, as well as learn about Boudica, the warrior queen of the Iceni tribe. The children will be using their 'Fab Four Reading Strategies' to make predictions, summarise the stories and expand their vocabulary by using dictionaries and thesauruses. Additionally, they will learn the features of instructional writing and apply these skills by creating Roman Menus. They will also sequence events and write a historical narrative about Boudica's revolt, using paragraphs and fronted adverbials to enhance their storytelling. Finally, we will be looking at the visual text 'La Luna'. Children will write setting descriptions and an opening narrative to the story and use expanded noun phrases, inverted commas to show direct speech. Handwriting and editing their 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>Texts: <i>How to be a Roman</i> (Collins Big Cat) and <i>Boudica</i> (Collins Big Cat).</p> <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 the texts and ask questions to improve their understanding.</p>
Maths	<p>Our focus in Maths this term is all about place value. We will be looking at representing, 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. 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, Mymaths and Purple Mash at school.</p>

	<p>It is essential that children are engaging and using these at home where possible to consolidate and support their learning.</p> <p>Please note that here will be a statutory Multiplication Check for Year 4, in June. This will be carried out in school on a device. We will share more information about this as the year goes on. To help your child prepare, please encourage them to practise their times tables at home as much as possible.</p>
Science	Our unit this half term is entitled 'Changes of state' and the children will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. They will observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C). They will also identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.
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	In History, children will be learning all about the Romans. As well as focussing on core historical skills such as chronology, we will be looking at who occupied Britain before the Romans, who was Boudicca and the results of her revolt. We will also be learning about what life was like in 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	This term in D&T, children will be learning about "Light Up Signs." They will explore how to construct light boxes and fit them with either traditional school electronic components, such as bulbs and batteries, or with small and affordable LEDs. After designing, making, and evaluating their own light boxes, the final lesson in this series will introduce children to programming and controlling lights inside electronic products through practical activities and guidance.
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 learn about covenants and reflect on 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 each week. 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, 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, I will not always comment unless necessary. We will go over any common mistakes or things we find tricky in class. I may return your child's work so you know I have looked at it.

### **Spelling:**

Spelling test will take place every **Tuesday**.

### **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: Thursday and Friday**

We will have a **coached PE session** on Friday. The class will also have PE on a Thursday. 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.  
Mrs Santangelo and the Y4 team