



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Autumn 2 Half Term: November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope the children have had a restful and joyful half-term break. I am so pleased with how well they have settled into Year 4 and am looking forward to an exciting and busy Autumn 2 term.

We are starting off with a new topic, "*Potions*," inspired by *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. To launch this topic, Year 4 will participate in a special Potion Day in our classroom on Friday 15th November. Children are welcome to dress up as scientists or bring a small prop, such as a plastic magnifying glass, clipboard, or glasses.

Please continue to support your child in practising their multiplication tables in preparation for the Multiplication Check in the Summer Term.

There is much more to come as we approach the Christmas holidays. Please refer to the table below for a brief overview of the learning experiences planned for each subject this half-term.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	Children will read <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> by Lewis Carroll and write a potion recipe using imperative verbs, adverbs, and powerful adjectives. They will also work on poetry inspired by <i>Leah's Star</i> , exploring the text and creating their own pieces. Additionally, they will story-map <i>Leah's Star</i> and use it to retell the story in their own words. Our grammar focus this term will include imperative verbs, noun phrases, apostrophes with plurals, adverbs, and a variety of sentence structures.
Reading	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.
Maths	In Maths, we will continue to focus on addition and subtraction including looking at subtraction with multiple exchanges, estimating our answers and checking strategies to add and subtract. There will be a focus on measurement, which looks at area. We will then complete the term with looking at multiplication and division. We will have a focus on looking at the 3,6,9,7 and 11 times tables. Children will be regularly logging in to platforms such as TT rockstars, Purple Mash 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.

Science	Our module in science this half term is 'Electricity: circuits'. The children will learn to identify common appliances that run on electricity and construct a simple circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts. They will then identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, and recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit. They will complete the unit by recognising some common conductors and insulators.
Computing	This term in computing, Year 4 are coding. We will be learning how to make a simple computer programme as well as thinking about using statements to code, using coordinates and creating a playable game, which we have coded.
Geography	Our Geography learning this term is focussed around rivers. Children will be learning about how people use rivers, what journeys rivers make, how people change rivers and how flooding can affect people.
PHSE	In PSHE we are celebrating difference. We are learning to accept people's differences and accepting people for who they are. We will also be looking at external influences and how these affect our assumptions. We will also be exploring bullying and thinking about the question, 'what is special about me?' We also will be celebrating children's mental health week and looking at lots of different activities which can help us.
Art	Our Art project this term is called 'Festival Feasts'. In this unit, we will be exploring the work of artists Claes Oldenburg, Lucia Hierro and Rowan Briggs. We will use these artists as inspiration to make our own festival feasts out of mod roc.
RE	In RE, we are exploring Incarnation and our unit question for this term is entitled 'What is the Trinity?' We will be exploring different ways God is represented in the Gospel, how baptism today is connected to the baptism of Jesus and thinking about different ways in which we can represent the Trinity.
Music	Our music learning this term will be focussed on learning the songs to support the Christmas Production, focusing on performance skills, singing as part of a group and learning about musical 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 **Thursday**. 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.

Starting this term, children will no longer receive weekly spelling lists to memorise and be tested on. Instead, they will have access to interactive online spelling games on **Spelling Shed**, focusing on specific word lists that we will cover in class. Occasionally, paper-based spelling homework will also be provided alongside the online activities. Children's logins for Spelling Shed will be sent home this week.

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 and a brief comment.

P.E: Year 4 PE days are: Thursday 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.

Mrs Roberta Santangelo