



St Mary's C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs M. Constantinou BEd

Littlegrove, East Barnet, Herts EN4 8SR

t: 020 8449 5856

e: office@stmarysen4.barnetmail.net

www.stmarysen4-barnet.co.uk

KS2 Half Term Curriculum Plan / Home Learning Letter

Year 4

Spring 1 Half Term: January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and a very happy and healthy New Year! We are excited to welcome the children back for another term of fun and engaging learning.

A few reminders:

- **Spelling:** There will no longer be any formal spelling tests. Instead, I will assign online work through Spelling Shed and have regular spelling lessons in class. This will give the children plenty of opportunities to practise their spelling skills.
- **Times Tables:** We encourage the children to continue practising their times tables at home in preparation for the upcoming test in the **Summer Term**. Regular practice will help build their confidence and fluency.

Below is a table providing an overview of the learning experiences the children will engage in across each subject this half term.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	<p>Our focus text this term is an adaptation of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Children will watch an exciting performance by the Young Shakespeare Company to support their learning and understanding of this text. We will be writing a wedding invitation, a letter and a Play script. Children will also be learning about William Shakespeare and the historical context which surrounds his literature. Our grammar focus is pronouns, tense agreement, fronted adverbials and using brackets (specifically as stage directions).</p> <p>Our spelling focus for the term will be looking at words ending in '-sion', '-ous', '-sion' and words from the Year 3 /4 list.</p>
Reading	<p>Our reading 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.</p>
Maths	<p>In maths this term, our focus will be on multiplication and division, length and perimeter. We will be learning about 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 numbers. Our learning will then move on length and perimeter. This includes measuring in kilometres and metres, and finding the perimeter of a rectangle and perimeters 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, Purple Mash and Mymaths at school. You can also access other times table games online such as www.timestables.co.uk It is essential that children are engaging and using these at home where possible to consolidate and support their learning.</p>

Science	Our module in science this half term is 'Human impact on the environment'. We will begin by thinking about the impact of litter in our school. We will then learn how micro plastics get into the food chain and the role we can play in helping to reduce pollution.
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, the children explore being part of a team. We will talk about attitudes and actions and the effects on the whole class. The children will learn about their school and its community, who all the different people are and what their roles are. They discuss democracy and link this to their own School Council, what its purpose is and how it works. The children learn about group work, the different roles people can have, how to make positive contributions, how to make collective decisions and how to deal with conflict. They will refresh their classroom charter.
DT	In DT this term, children will find out the purpose of a greenhouse and how it works, before moving on to exploring how structures like these can be made stable, and what materials would be the most appropriate to use. Children then apply this knowledge and understanding when designing, making and evaluating their very own mini greenhouse.
RE	In RE, we are focussing on Hinduism and learning specifically about the concept of 'dharma' and the story of Rama and Sita. We will explore the idea of a 'duty' and what this means to us and Hindus. Children will then explore why Rama and Sita are inspirations, 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 on 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 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.

Children will receive weekly **spelling** lists to learn via Spelling Shed. They will have access to interactive online spelling games based on the assigned words. In addition, I will deliver in-class lessons to help children practise writing these words. Occasionally, paper-based spelling homework will be provided alongside the online activities.

Please note that although I will look at all home learning, I may 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.

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: 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 sharpening), 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 or concerns, please the class team via the School Office email.

Thank you for your continued support

Best regards,

Mrs Santangelo and the Y4 class team