



Care, Grow and Flourish
in God's Loving Hands

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 2 Half Term: February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful half-term break. We are looking forward to an exciting few weeks ahead, with Year 4's first residential trip just around the corner! In addition, we have plenty of exciting events to look forward to, including Science Week, engaging Science workshops, and World Book Day.

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.

Subjects	Focus of Learning
English	<p>This term in English, children will be focussing on the text 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. Children will be continuing to focus on reading skills which underpins much of their learning. As part of this, children will be predicting, summarising and completing a character analysis. They will be recapping much of their grammar learning including commas in lists, adverbs and fronted adverbials. They will also focus on expanded noun phrases to help them write descriptively.</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>
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, Purple Mash and My Maths at school. You can also access other times table games on line such as</p>

	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 'Digestion and food chains'. We will begin by describing the functions of the basic parts of the human digestive system. We will then move onto identifying the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions. We will also construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.
Computing	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.
Geography	This term in Geography, we are learning about 'rainforests'. We are looking at the where the worlds 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.
PSHE	In PSHE we are celebrating differences. 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	In Art this term children will be exploring patterns. They will develop a range of technical skills and knowledge through drawing and collage. The unit also introduces them to the idea that working with pattern can be a mindful activity, and that as humans we respond to patterns made by other people.
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 be set on a Friday and needs to be completed and turned in by Thursday.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Santangelo