

YEAR 4 CLASS NEWSLETTER








SPRING 2024






Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to St Mary's, we hope that you and your family enjoyed a wonderful and peaceful Christmas break. The children have settled well back into the school routines and we are looking forward to our next term of learning together. Your support in ensuring that your child completes their Home Learning every week and reads every day with you will continue to help your child to make accelerated progress and reach their full potential.

Curriculum

We will continue our Maths and Literacy learning by building on the key skills that the children learned last year. Our topic this term will be 'Rivers of Time – The Thames and The Nile'. We will be delivering a lot of the learning in Science, History, Geography, Art and Design Technology through our topics, with links to the learning in Literacy and Maths. Below is an outline of what we will be covering in our curriculum.

<p>English</p> 	<p>In English, we will be reading 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister & Grahame Baker-Smith. Through this story, the children will be inspired to write descriptive poems, postcards, dialogues, setting descriptions and letters. In addition, we will continue to learn how to write in the past perfect tense and to use apostrophes correctly in plural nouns. We will also be reading the story of 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde. Including themes of love, forgiveness and redemption, the story will help children build compassion towards the characters and develop empathy for those who find themselves in difficult emotional situations. Before half term, we will be launching our Poetry competition, so please begin to think about a Poem that your child could learn and perform (or they can write their own!).</p>
<p>Reading</p> 	<p>In Reading, we will be focusing on 'Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells. The children will explore how the author creates suspense and drama in the story. We will also be working on our skills of prediction and inference (understanding what a character is thinking/feeling by reading between the lines/looking for clues). Please ensure that you hear your child read every day and check that they are updating their Reading Record.</p>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>This half term we will be focusing on using written methods to multiply and divide larger numbers. We will be learning to calculate the perimeter of 2D shapes and beginning to look at Fractions. In the second half of the term we will be learning how to count in steps of thirds and fifths. By the end of the term, the children will be expected to compare and order fractions independently and to convert mixed numbers to improper fractions. We will also be learning about decimal numbers.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>In RE, we will be learning about Christianity and how their belief in God may have affected the actions of people in the Old Testament. We will look at Old Testament stories of people whose belief in God affected their actions such as Solomon, Jonah, Daniel, David and Goliath, Ruth, Moses and Abraham. After half term, we will be taking an in depth look at the Easter Story and considering questions such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Why did Judas betray Jesus? ❑ What does Peter's denial say about the challenges of Christian faith? ❑ Why were the women important at the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus? ❑ Who is the most important person in the Easter narrative and why?
<p>Topic</p> 	<p>In this topic, pupils will first learn about how rivers are formed, and their different parts and features. They will study the journey of the River Thames from its source to where it reaches the sea and look at some of the human and physical features along the way using maps, images and digital mapping tools. In Science Lessons, they will learn about the different habitats along the Thames, and the living things that live in</p>

	these habitats. They will also find out about how habitats can change, and how this affects the animals and plants that live there, using River Thames pollution as an example. They will learn how to sort living things into different groups based on their characteristics and have a go at classifying the plants and animals that call the River Thames home using a simple classification key. In DT, pupils will learn about the main features of a boat and have a go at building, testing and improving sails for their own boats. After half term, we will move on to focus on the importance of the River Nile in Ancient Egypt.
Values 	We will be focusing on the whole school values of Love and Forgiveness . We will be exploring these values throughout this term and children will have the opportunity to learn how these values can be displayed, referring to examples from Bible stories and influential figures.
Computing 	In Computing, we will be learning about different types of Computer Games. The children will play and evaluate a variety of different types of games. Ultimately, they will create their own maze games to be played and evaluated by their peers.
Music 	The children will continue to learn to play the trumpet.
PSHE 	We will be following the Jigsaw scheme of work in our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). This term our units are 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'. The children will be thinking about their own hopes and dreams and considering how to make a plan to help achieve their goals. They will be working on understanding how to manage feelings of disappointment if their dreams do not always come true. We will also be looking at the impact that smoking and alcohol can have on a person's health.
MFL 	We will be studying French as our Modern Foreign Language (MFL). This term we will be learning to describe actions using a variety of verbs in French.

Key Dates for the Spring Term 2024

- **Wednesday 17th January – trip to Deptford Creek**
- Mon 22nd January – we will launch our Annual Poetry Competition
- Week beginning 22nd January – After School Clubs begin
- Wed 31st January 9AM – Candlemas and Eucharist worship in St Mary's Church
- Fri 9th Feb – Own Clothes £1 (wear RED for Chinese New Year) – Dragon Dancing, Food & Crafts
- **Mon 12th – Fri 16th February – HALF TERM**
- Wed 6th March 9AM – Mothering Sunday worship in School
- Fri 8th March 8AM – Parent's Reading Breakfast in School
- Fri 8th March – Children's Own Clothes Day – dress up as a BOOK CHARACTER for BOOK WEEK
- **Mon 19th Feb – Fri 1st March – Y4 Swimming at Glass Mill everyday**
- Mon 11th March – we will launch our Easter Competition to create an Easter Egg
- Thu 14th March – PARENTS' EVENING
- Fri 22nd March – Own Clothes Day (pay £1) and at 3PM Easter Cake Sale and Games to raise money for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal
- Thu 28th March 1:00PM – End of Spring Term
- Mon 15th April 8:40AM - Children return to school for the Summer Term

Key Reminders

- Please be on time at the beginning (8:40) and end (3:10) of the school day
- Please ring the school office if you have arranged for a new person to collect your child



PE

Please note that the children must bring the correct PE kit (plain navy blue/black jogging bottoms, plain white t-shirt and plain black plimsolls/trainers) to every PE lesson. Our PE coach, Mr Tientcheu, will lead the children in the PE curriculum alongside their teacher. **PE lessons will be on Thursday.**



Jewellery

We advise that the children do not wear **any** jewellery to school although plain stud earrings are acceptable. Please bear in mind that if your child is wearing earrings they need to be able to remove them themselves for PE lessons.

Clothing

Please make sure that all of your child's items of clothing are clearly labelled with their names. This applies to all items of school uniform, PE kit and coats. School shoes should be plain and black.

Home Learning

Home Learning will be set on Friday and should be completed by Tuesday. In addition to the learning set, your children should be regularly practicing their times tables, spellings and reading every day.

There is a clear expectation that every child fully completes their Home Learning every week and we will be keeping a record and contacting parents where this is not the case.

Reading

It is vital that your child reads to you every day. Please ensure that they complete their reading journal and bring it into school **daily**. Your child will be given books, which we will aim to change on a weekly basis. If you have any concerns or would like some support with this, then please contact the school.

Appointments - If you have any queries or wish to make an appointment, please ring the School office on 0208 6902613 or email admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk

We greatly value your support with your child's learning.

Mrs Stead (Class Teacher) Mrs Gaitan (Teaching Assistant)