



St Mary's CE Primary School

"Nurturing Success"

Information for Parents and Carers

Year 4

Autumn 2024

Our theme this term is 'Rotten Romans'



We hope that you will find the following information useful in supporting your child in his or her work both at school and at home. With this information to hand, you will be able to talk to your child more about what they are doing at school and ask them questions about the topics you know they will be looking at. This information includes only the main themes, ideas and topics which the children will experience.

Planning is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus for religious education. **Children in Year 4 receive spelling and maths homework on a Friday.** *The children will not have spelling homework books this year and will not be expected to hand their spelling homework in. We expect children to use the grid on their spelling homework sheet to learn their spellings using the 'look, say, cover, write, check' strategy and to use other strategies for learning these spellings and their meanings on the back of the sheet. The same words to learn will also be set on Spelling Shed so that children can use these resources to help them to practise their spellings. Further guidance for spelling homework and the expectations can be found on the school website.*

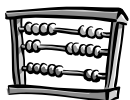
Please return home diaries to school on a Monday and please return maths books and reading records on Wednesday.

English



We will begin English this term by reading 'The Roman Beanfeast' by Gillian Cross. The children will take part in a range of activities linked to the story and the characters in the text before writing their own short stories. In both their reading and writing, the children will focus on how characters are built up from small details and will begin to structure their own fiction writing into paragraphs. There will be a continued focus on Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS), helping children to use features such as apostrophes, fronted adverbial phrases and inverted commas correctly in their writing. During the rest of the term, we will be writing non-fiction texts, focussing specifically on reports, related to our history topic. We will also be exploring setting descriptions through our reading. During the second half of the term, we will be exploring themes in our class novel 'The Boy at the back of the Class' and focussing on writing letters. Please help your child to access Spelling Shed at home to support the learning of their weekly spellings.

Mathematics



In Maths in Year 4, we will be challenging children to learn all of their times tables from 2 to 12. This will require a lot of practice both inside and outside of school. Please help your child to work on these at home too, using their Times Table Rockstars login which can be found in the home-school diary and the Arithmetic Homework book. Towards the end of the academic year, all children are required by the Government to sit the Year 4 Multiplication Check. We will provide you with further information about this test nearer the time. In the Autumn term we will be working in our Maths No Problem books, focussing primarily on place value, counting in multiples of 10, 25, 50, 100 and 1000, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, supported by the use of practical resources. There will be opportunities each lesson for the children to explain their thinking through discussion and to apply new skills through reasoning challenges so that children can deepen their

understanding of mathematical concepts. Children will also have a weekly arithmetic test and their understanding will be supported by a weekly arithmetic homework.

Science



In Science, children will be looking at states of matter and developing their ability to work scientifically by planning and carrying out investigations. The children will compare and group materials according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases, as well as observing that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled. Children will also be looking at the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle, associating the rate of evaporation with temperature. If you have a thermometer at home, please place it somewhere inside or outside and encourage your child to take daily readings. Similarly, chemical changes can be observed all around us and it would help your child if you were to point out everyday examples, such as kettles boiling or washing drying.

Computing



The children will have the opportunity to work on laptops and iPads throughout the year. ICT in Year 4 will be used across the curriculum as well as in the computing lesson. Children will have the opportunity to use the internet and learn about online safety issues. During this term the children will become software developers, using Scratch to create and code their own educational game. In this unit, the children will learn the difference between inputs and outputs and how to create an engaging user interface. Children will also be developing word processing skills, and learning how to open, edit and save documents.



Religious Education

In Religious Education this term, Year 4 will be looking at the Christian creation story, 'genesis, and how Christians view the origins of the world. They will consider what is 'wow' about the world and how this may guide a person of faith's actions. They will also look at the story of the Pentecost and consider how Christians' lives may have been affected after Jesus died. They will consider why some texts are considered sacred and begin to explore stories shared by these faiths and how these stories influence people's values and 'codes of living'. The children are encouraged to think about what these stories mean to them and how they influence their own lives.



Design and Technology, including Cookery and Nutrition

During the Autumn term, the children will design and make a Roman aqueduct. They will be exploring ancient designs and techniques, then design, make and evaluate their own version. The children will focus on making sure the design is fit for purpose. They will test different methods of construction to develop strength and comfort in their product.

During the course of the year, your child will participate in three cookery and nutrition lessons. You will be asked to provide ingredients and from these your child will prepare dishes, which they will bring home for you and your family to share.



History and Geography

Our topic this term will be 'Rotten Romans.' During History lessons, year 4 will have the opportunity to act as historians investigating all aspects of Roman Britain, including British revolt, the strengths and weaknesses of the Roman empire and the many ways life changed under Roman rule. They will follow the evolution of Roman rule in Britain from invasion to

the fall of the Roman empire and will understand the chronology of events during this period. They will also compare maps of Roman and modern Britain and locate key towns and cities.



Art and Design

The children's art work will be linked to our history topic. The children will have the opportunity to design and create their own mosaics, taking inspiration from Roman and contemporary design.



Music

This term Year 4 will be playing the recorder, recapping the notes BAGED, as well as learning F, C and high D. If you purchased a recorder, your child will receive it during the first half term and they can take it home with them to practise. Please ensure that your child brings their recorder into school on Thursdays (4B) or Fridays (4G), so that they can use their own recorder during class music lessons. Later in the term, they will explore how composers create pictures through their music. They will listen to classical music, specifically, 'Mars' by Gustav Holst, and use musical terms such as: duration, timbre, pitch, beat, tempo, and texture to describe it.



French

Year 4 children will be continuing to learn French this year. As well as revisiting the vocabulary that the children learnt in year 3, through listening, games and other activities, the children will talk about their likes and dislikes, animals, and they will learn the vocabulary for colours.



Physical Education

This term the children will be taking part in Dodgeball and Tennis lessons. During the second half of the term, we will be playing Tag Rugby and Handball. These invasion games will help to develop teamwork and hand-eye co-ordination.

This year, PE will take place on a Monday afternoon for all children in Year 4. **Please could children come to school in their PE kit on a Monday.**

Personal, Social and Health Education

In PSHE our focus will be health and wellbeing, including healthy lifestyles, growing and changing and keeping safe. We will think about the ways in which we can keep safe in the physical and online worlds and the people who help us to do this as well as what responsibilities we have to keep ourselves safe. We will also talk about feelings that are good and not so good and ways we can manage these as we get older. Finally, children will be encouraged to think about ways we can be healthy, through diet, exercise and lifestyle choices.



***Thank you for taking time to read this information.
Mrs Gunby and Miss Beecroft***