



St Mary's CE Primary School

"Nurturing Success"

Information for Parents and Carers

Year 4

Spring 2026

Our theme this term is 'Awesome Americas'



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. If you would like any further information about what your child is learning about, please speak to a member of the Year 4 team.

Arithmetic homework will continue to be set on a Thursday and should be returned the following Wednesday. Please also encourage your child to read at home, not just their reading book, but anything which will help them to develop their skills and widen their vocabulary.

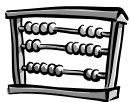
Planning is based on the requirements of the National Curriculum and the locally agreed syllabus for religious education.

English

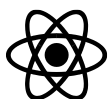


Our English work this term will be based on our class novel 'The City of Ember' by Jeanne DuPrau, and later, our 'Awesome Americas' theme. We will begin by reading 'The City of Ember', thinking about how the author develops characters and plot, leaving clues for the reader. Children will have the chance to develop their inference skills, prediction skills and their understanding of words in context through answering a range of test style questions and those which require a longer response. In the second half of the term, English work will be based on the story of 'Minty: The young Harriet Tubman.' In response to this text, the children will write biographies about Harriet Tubman. Throughout all of our written work this term there will be a continued focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, and children will continue to receive weekly spellings to learn. All of our English work will present many opportunities for the children to engage in some exciting speaking, listening and drama activities.

Mathematics



During the term there will be a strong emphasis on fractions including finding equivalent fractions, simplifying mixed numbers and improper fractions as well as adding and subtracting fractions. The children will use concrete resources to support their understanding. We will also be developing reasoning skills in maths. Each lesson, the children aim to complete at least one reasoning question where they can apply their learning from the lesson. We will continue to have a strong focus on arithmetic skills as this is having such a positive impact. Children will continue to have an arithmetic test set as homework on a weekly basis. This will be given out on a Thursday and should be handed in on Wednesday. Times table facts are also something that we will continue to have a strong focus on in preparation for the DfE's multiplication test in June. All of the children have received a log in for Time Table Rock Stars. Please encourage your child to go on this as much as possible at home. Each week, the children will have five times table challenges in school (taken from Times Table Rock Stars). We anticipate that this will have a huge impact on the learning of the times table facts and also the speed in which the children can recall them.



Science

The theme for this term will be electricity. The children will learn about simple circuits and will explore how components function, with plenty of opportunity for practical investigation. They will test various materials for electrical conductivity and use their results to inform them of the best material to use for switches.



Computing

This term the children will learn about the history of the web, before studying HTML (hypertext mark-up language), the language in which web pages are written. They will also learn that not everything on the web is good, healthy or helpful, and so care is needed to ensure it's used safely, respectfully and responsibly.



Religious Education

In Religious Education this term, Year 4 will be learning about the non-religious worldview of Humanism. They will consider what a humanist would say about where human beings come from, where the world came from, and consider how humanists may live their daily lives based on their core beliefs.



Geography

This term the children will be visiting the Americas! In all subjects, work will be underpinned by this theme. In Geography, the children will learn about the continents and will be able to locate different places on a world map. Building on work from previous years, they will continue to develop the key geographical skills of using grid references, compass points and keys. In particular, the children will look closely at mountainous areas in North and South America, identifying the physical features of the region and the challenges of living there. They will then compare and contrast different places using physical and human features.



Art and Design

The focus this term will be to develop sketching skills and techniques through drawing time. We will also be taking part in our drawing fortnight in January where we will be studying a tree on the school grounds and representing it through the medium of ink. The children will have the opportunity to learn new skills and display their finished artwork around the school.



Design and Technology

Linked to their learning in Science, the children will work in groups to design, make and test their own night lights. They will apply their knowledge of electrical circuits and master practical skills including cutting, joining and selecting materials to create a product that is appealing, safe and functional.



Music

This term, the children will focus on applying their musical skills to our school play 'Go for Gold.'



Modern Foreign Languages

Year 4 children will be continuing to learn French this term. They will learn higher numbers (1-31) as well as multiples of 10 and 100. Later in the term, the children will learn the vocabulary for various items of clothing and prices. As always, vocabulary is learnt through games, repetition and lots of speaking and listening exercises before the children write their own sentences.



Physical Education

In their PE lessons, there will be an emphasis on dance, play rehearsals and gymnastics. Within these lessons, we will also talk about how we can live a healthy life style. During the Spring term please ensure that your child attends school wearing their P.E kit on **Mondays**.



Personal, Social, Health and Education

In PSHE we will be exploring relationships. The children will develop strategies to recognise what constitutes a positive, healthy relationship and how to maintain these. In addition to this, we will discuss how we can judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable or unacceptable and how to respond.

Thank you for taking time to read this information.

Mrs Gunby and Miss Beecroft