



St Mary & All Saints CE Primary School

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12th January 2024

Dear Parent,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. It is good to see that all the children have returned to school full of enthusiasm, ready for a hard-working and exciting term ahead. This letter includes information about the curriculum areas that the children in Year 4 will be covering this term and information that you will require.

In the first half of the spring term, our focus will be on 'Fabulous Food'. In Science, we will explore the fascinating topic of teeth and digestion. Through interactive lessons and activities, the children will gain an understanding of the human digestive system. They will have the opportunity to name and explain the functions of the various types of teeth, as well as learn about consumers and predators within a food chain. In Design and Technology, we will build upon our knowledge of a healthy and varied diet to design, make, and evaluate a pizza with toppings. To enhance their learning experience, the children will also have the exciting opportunity to visit our local Pizza Express in Beaconsfield. Please keep an eye out for a separate letter with the full details of this visit.

After the half-term, our topic will shift to 'Coast to Coast'. During this period, we will focus on Geography, exploring famous coastal landmarks in the UK. The children will deepen their understanding of the process of erosion and its impact on coastlines. Furthermore, we will investigate the causes and impacts of pollution on marine life in coastal areas. In Art, we will study renowned watercolour artists such as Turner and Monet. Using their work as inspiration, the children will have the chance to create their own seascapes, developing their artistic skills in the process.

We are confident that these topics will engage and inspire the children, providing them with valuable knowledge and skills across various subjects.

In English we will begin by focusing on character description using Roald Dahl's 'The Twits' as inspiration. Children will focus on appearance as well as personality and will be encouraged to incorporate uplevelled vocabulary descriptions to enhance their writing. We will then be looking at creating diary entries, focusing on the text 'The Firework Makers daughter' as inspiration. Children will focus on using emotive language devices and an informal style throughout their work along with other key grammatical features. We will also be reading this to the children in class as our guided reading text.

In Mathematics we will be working through the National Curriculum objectives for Year 4. Our topics will be Multiplication and Division, Length and Perimeter, Fractions and Decimals. To assist you in understanding the learning objectives for each topic, we encourage you to visit our school website.

We would like to draw your attention to the importance of the skills related to Length and Perimeter. Understanding these concepts enables children to make accurate measurements and calculate distances. Practical activities at home, such as measuring objects around the house or drawing shapes with given dimensions, offer excellent opportunities for application and reinforcement of these skills.

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Similarly, a solid grasp of Fractions and Decimals is vital for your child's mathematical development. Encouraging them to investigate everyday situations involving fractions and decimals can foster a deeper understanding of their real-life applications. For example, discussing recipes or dividing food items into equal parts can be a fun way to engage with these concepts.

Other topics we will be studying are:

Science	Teeth and Digestion
Geography	Settlements
	Coasts
Computing	Digital Art
	Video Creation
E-Safety	Managing Online Information
	Online Bullying
DT	Cooking and Nutrition
Art	Seascapes
PE	Invasion Games – Football
	Gymnastics – Bridges
	Swimming
RE	Is a Holy Journey Necessary to Believers?
	Should Believers Give Things Up?
Music	Stop Rap (Charanga)
	Lean on Me
French	Au Salon de Thé
	Weather
PSHE	Dreams and Goals
	Healthy Me

Homework

This year homework will be set and submitted on Seesaw. In Year 4 the children will receive the following homework: English and Maths homework will be set on a Tuesday and is expected to be returned by the following Tuesday.

Spellings will also be set on Seesaw and tested in class. These will be given to the children on a Friday with a test the following Friday.

We have developed our spelling lists to correspond with the spelling rules the children are being taught in their English lessons. These spellings are split into 3 groups; Must, Should and Could. All children are expected to learn the 'Must' spellings; they will be directed by the class teacher to learn the 'Should' or 'Could' spellings if they are ready, although all children can choose to challenge themselves by learning these should they wish. Any children who find spelling particularly difficult will be given words linked to their phonic phases.

Children will continue working on their Numeracy Passport objectives, which will include weekly times tables tests. They will be expected to practise their passport objectives and times tables regularly at home. The children should use their login for Times Table Rockstars to support their fluency and accuracy in a fun way.

This year, we continue to focus on reading (especially reading for enjoyment) and are looking forward to finding out about what exciting books the children enjoy. Please make sure that the children have a book they are reading at home and can bring to school each day. Continue to listen to your child read daily, as not only will this aid their learning considerably, it will also increase their enjoyment of reading.

Discuss the books that they are reading and encourage your child to choose more challenging literature in order to continue their development. We are using paper based reading diaries to record daily reading. It is vital that these are in school every day.

Our carefully selected suggested reads for Year 4 are as follows:

1. The Snow Spider by Jenny Nimmo
2. War Game by Michael Foreman
3. The Borrowers by Mary Norton
4. The Famous Five by Enid Blyton
5. You're A Bad Man Mr Gum by Andy Stanton
6. Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
7. The Velvet Fox by Catherine Fisher
8. Nevertell by Katharine Orton
9. The Stormkeeper's Island by Catherine Do
10. Small Change for Stuart by Lissa Evans
11. Cloudbusting by Malorie Blackman
12. Rumblestar by Abi Elphinstone

PE and Games

The children will need a full, named PE kit (T-Shirt, shorts, socks, plimsolls/trainers). Both classes will have Games and PE on Monday afternoons. Children will be expected to bring in and leave their kits in school for the entire half term. As a reminder, they will be required to wear trainers for outdoor PE.

Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This term as part of our PSHE curriculum, your child will be taught about goal setting and how to set and achieve realistic goals. They will also be talking about their dreams and ambitions, and how to overcome challenges. After the half term break, the focus will switch to being healthy. Pupils will learn about the importance of a healthy diet, keeping clean, regular exercise and keeping themselves safe.

Children will be introduced to, and be asked to reflect on, the following key values through our weekly assembly programme: Courage, Love, Creation, Resilience, Determination, Hope, Friendship and Curiosity. In addition, children will learn about the importance of Easter in the Christian calendar and some of the key Easter traditions.

As always, we will be encouraging the children to think about others and this term, they will be taking part in Red Nose Day to raise money for Comic Relief.

One of the highlights in our Spring Term calendar is our International Week. During this week children across the school have the opportunity to learn about different cultures, countries and traditions. They learn about the importance of respecting and valuing others and that they are part of a bigger world. We usually have a different focus each year for this week and this year our focus will be artists from across the world learning about a given country and its traditional foods.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 will have the opportunity to develop their cycle skills and specifically learn how to keep safe when riding a bicycle via our very popular Bikeability Scheme. Children will aim to complete their Level 1 Award before having the opportunity to follow this up with their Level 2 award when they are in Years 5 and 6.

We also have an exciting trip planned to Pizza Express in Beaconsfield to enhance the children's learning on our Cooking and Nutrition topic. This will also teach the children respect, confidence, and resilience as well as enrich social and cultural awareness, and foster inclusive learning.

Finally, across the school, pupils will continue to perform key roles to improve their leadership and / or teamwork skills and also to develop a sense of responsibility. These responsibilities increase as children progress through the different year groups. In Year 4 pupils take on the following whole school roles:

- School council – as voted for by their peers
- Collective Worship Ambassadors
- Equipment Monitor on the Patio Playground

Please keep an eye out on our Social Media pages, or in the half-termly newsletter for details of the above events and also information about additional opportunities that the children at SMAS experience as part of our PSED Curriculum and school vision.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year. May we take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child's learning at home. Let us look forward to a productive and enjoyable term. If you ever wish to discuss anything about your child, please feel free to make an appointment through the office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Geary, Mrs Reynolds & Mrs Elliott
Y4 Class Teachers