

YEAR FOUR'S HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER – Spring 1

Miss Cook (Class Teacher) Mrs Shaw (Tuesdays)

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all. I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas. For Spring 1, Mrs Shaw will be in class Tuesdays and I will be in class for the rest of the week. I feel very lucky to have already gotten to know the class and will aim to ensure the continuity of their learning. I am looking forward to getting to know your children further over the rest of the term. Please check our school website for further information on what your children will learn this half term, along with this newsletter and spellings.

Home Learning

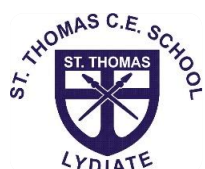
As always, we continue to prioritise reading at home. We ask that pupils read at least five times a week at home. We understand that it is not always possible for pupils to read with an adult every time so we also encourage independent reading. Please can an adult sign their child's reading journal when they have read. Every time your child reads 5 times a week, they are added to our chart and awarded a STAR Point.

Most children are now in a good routine with our 'Accelerated Readers' with children completing quizzes in school when they have finished a book. This is a great way of ensuring children keep up with the progression and enjoyment of reading.

Spellings for this half term have been sent home.

Children are also encouraged to use Times Table Rockstars regularly at home. This is a fun but effective way for children to quickly improve their times tables fluency. Please try and make sure children access this as regularly as possible ahead of the statutory Y4 times table test in June. TT Rockstars recommends at least 21 minutes of practise per week. Please encourage your children wherever possible. Not only will this prepare them for the multiplication, but all further maths that they will learn. Another great website, which is setup in the style of the online check, can be found if you Google 'Maths Frame Multiplication Check'.

We encourage pupils to complete at least one activity from the online home learning menu per half term to further their learning at home, this half term it will be Science. We will dedicate time at the end of the half term to share and celebrate any work completed from the menus. Work can either be brought in or submitted on Seesaw.



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



PE

This half term, P.E. will be on a Thursday and the children can continue coming to school in their kit on this day.

Uniform

Please ensure that all items of your child's clothing are named to avoid any losses, especially jumpers and cardigans which often end up in areas away from the classroom. At St Thomas' we always aim to get the children out in the fresh air at break times and request that a coat is brought in everyday, as we all know how unpredictable our weather can be.

Attendance

As always, we will be continuing to do lots of fun and engaging learning. It is incredibly important that children are in school and that we thrive for 100% attendance. Illness cannot be helped and we completely understand that there are things that come up but it would be great for everyone to aim for 100% attendance this term.

Upcoming trip - Chester Zoo

Due to St Thomas' fantastic Ofsted outcome, we are taking the school on a trip to Chester Zoo. This is taking place on Wednesday 22nd January. Please ensure all consent forms are brought in.

Please let me know if you have any worries, concerns or just something you would like to discuss and thank you for all your support.

Miss Cook



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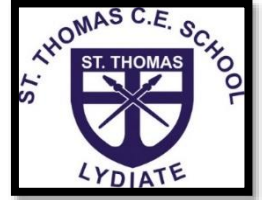


Year Four Curriculum Map

In the Spring 1 term, we will be learning about:

Maths In Maths we will be continuing our work on multiplication and division. We will be multiplying and dividing up to 3-digit numbers. We will also be practising multiplying with multiples of 10 and 100. We will also be using our multiplication and division skills to solve multi step word problems. We will also continue with lots of discrete times table practise, ahead of the Y4 Time Tables test next summer.	English In English we will be reading and exploring 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' - Joe Todd Stanton. We will explore the book through a range of different writing genres, including information texts, poetry and narrative writing. The children will continue to work on different writing features such as fronted adverbials and alternative synonyms. Our whole class guided reading sessions will continue to focus on a range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction texts.	RE In RE, we will be focusing on 'Jesus the Son of God.' We will be emphasising that Jesus is the Son of God and we will be thinking about how Jesus showed his power and authority. Some key questions we will consider include: • How do we know Jesus had power and authority? • Where did Jesus' power and authority come from? • How do the actions of Jesus show that he is the Son of God?
History In History we will be learning about Ancient Egypt. Firstly, we will explore what ancient artefacts were found by archaeologists and the importance of the River Nile. We will then learn about hieroglyphics and how the pharaohs influenced changed across Ancient Egypt before investigating some of the beliefs of the Ancient Egyptian people.	Geography In Geography we will learn about Rivers by firstly investigating the River Indus and how this river changes along it's course. We will also learn about how rivers get their water and the difference between a young river and a mature river before finally learning about Britain's longest river, the River Severn. We will put our learning into practise during our residential trip to Hothersall Lodge where we will complete a river study.	Science In Science this half term we will be learning all about Ecology. We will be learning about: • Living things and their habitat • Food chains • Ecosystems • Air pollution and human threat to the environment • Human impact on our local environments
PE Our P.E. day will be a Thursday. We will be in the hall working on our gymnastics unit.	Art In Art this half term we will commence a new unit on Space. This is to include: • How artists create the illusion of 3D. • How depth is created through foreground, middle ground and background. • How colour can create depth.	PSHE We will be beginning our MyHappyMind lessons and this begins by looking at our Brains and how our mind and brains work together. We will learn about Neuroplasticity and the role of different parts of our brains, such as the Pre-frontal cortex, Amygdala and the Hippocampus. We will also be beginning a new habit called 'Happy Breathing' as a way to regulate our emotions.

Year Four Home Learning Menu



Science through Art!

Show your Science knowledge through art.
Create a work of Art illustrating different living things and their habitats.



Time to Teach

Can you teach others about Ecology?
Make a video about different food chains.
Can you include our Star words? Explain these in your video or in your lessons to others.



Ready to Report

Create an information report about how air pollution and human impact are a threat to the environment.
What can we do to help?



Investigate

Greta Thunberg is an environmental activist from Sweden. She is known for raising public awareness of climate change across the world.
Investigate and create a fact file about her and what she believes in.



Have it your own way!

Or you can do it your way! Explore the topic of Ecology further in any way you choose.

Year 4 – Home/School Spellings – Spring 1

Below are our home spellings for this half term, each week has a specific spelling focus along with two of our Year 4 statutory spelling words (common exception words). Spelling and times table tests will continue to be on a Friday. The first spelling test for this term will be on Friday 10th January 2025.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Week <i>comma</i>	6 th Jan	13 th Jan	20 th Jan	27 th Jan	3 rd Feb	10 th Feb
Focus:	<i>Possessive apostrophe with singular and plural nouns (recap)</i>	<i>Suffix 'ous'</i>	<i>Suffix & syllable 'ous'</i>	<i>Prefix 'de' & 'over'</i>	<i>Word build & tricky 'th'</i>	<i>Homophones (recap)</i>
	1. cow's 2. cows' 3. teacher's 4. teachers' 5. boy's 6. boys' 7. dog's 8. dogs' 9. strength 10. suppose	1. Poisonous 2. Dangerous 3. Jovous 4. Hazardous 5. Humorous 6. Glamorous 7. Vigorous 8. Rigorous 9. Experiment 10. Extreme	1. Courageous 2. Outrageous 3. Obvious 4. Curious 5. Hideous 6. Spontaneous 7. Courteous 8. Nauseous 9. Experience 10. Notice	1. Defrost 2. Deconstruct 3. Dehydrate 4. Decode 5. Overused 6. Overwhelm 7. Overcharge 8. Overload 9. Recent 10. Bicycle	1. Irregular 2. Irrelevant 3. Recover 4. Return 5. Right 6. Bought 7. Dough 8. Weigh 9. Height 10. Difficult	1. scene 2. seen 3. mail 4. male 5. <u>their</u> 6. there 7. <u>where</u> 8. were 9. ball 10. brawl
Times tables test <i>focus:</i>	6x	7x	8x	9x	12x	4x