

YEAR FOUR'S HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 1

Welcome to Year Four!

Welcome back and a happy new year to all! I hope you had a lovely Christmas. On the school website, you will find our key information such as spelling lists, newsletters and knowledge organisers.

Home Learning

Reading

Reading continues to be a priority in Year 4. We are now in full swing of our online programme Reading Plus. We encourage the children to access this as much as possible at home to boost comprehension of texts and developing vocabulary.

While we understand some parents may have concerns about screentime, it's important to recognise the benefits of purposeful, educational screen use. Reading Plus is a research-backed platform designed to develop confident, capable readers – and sessions can be completed in as little as 10 minutes. It can be accessed on any device, including tablets, laptops, and even gaming consoles like PlayStations! Alongside Reading Plus, we are also placing a strong emphasis on reading for pleasure.

Please still encourage your children to read any books they take an interest in!

We kindly ask that your child's reading journal is signed five times a week, with a mixture of Reading Plus and reading for pleasure. It is important that we still see the children's journals in school and as a way of communicating any relevant messages.

Times tables

As you may know, all Year 4 children take part in the national Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term. This is designed to assess how fluently children can recall their times tables up to 12×12 . Quick recall of these facts is not only important for the check itself but also underpins much of the maths your child will encounter in upper Key Stage 2 and beyond.

We are continuing to encourage regular access just 5-10 minutes a day on Times tables Rockstars to help build speed and confidence in preparation for our Multiplication check in the Summer term.

Another great website, which is set up in the style of the online check, can be found if you Google, 'Maths Frame multiplication check'. Thank you for your support in helping your child secure this vital skill and to aim for 25 out of 25 in our test!

Spellings

Spellings will be sent home at the beginning of each half term; they can also be accessed on the school website. We will begin our spelling tests on Friday 9th January.

Book Bags

Please ensure that your child's book bag comes to school each day and that it is clearly labelled. Pupils should ensure that they have their journal in their book bag every day. We ask that rucksacks and additional bags are not brought in unless it is a swimming day or for an after school club.

Home items/ stationery

Many children have new stationery and items that they are bringing into school. We kindly ask that these remain at home, as we do not have the capacity to store them in trays alongside books. All necessary

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stationery is provided in school. Large keychains or accessories can easily fall off and become lost, so please refrain from adding these to your child's book bag. Any additional items brought into school will be handed to the school office for collection. Many thanks for your support with this.

Earrings

We would like to remind families of the school's policy regarding earrings and physical activity. In line with current Association for Physical Education (AfPE) guidance, earrings must not be worn in school under any circumstances. Jewellery must be removed for safety reasons, and taping earrings is not permitted. Any child wearing earrings will be unable to take part in PE lessons, breaktimes, or activities such as the Daily Mile. This policy is in place to reduce the risk of injury and applies to all pupils. We appreciate your continued support in helping us keep everyone safe.

PE

Our PE lessons will be on a Tuesday afternoon. Please ensure your child brings in their full swimming kit and no earrings (including clear plastic ones) are to be worn.

Attendance/ punctuality

Although Spring 1 is a shorter term, we still have lots of planned fun and engaging learning opportunities for the children. It is very important that children are in school and we strive for 100% attendance. We understand that illness cannot be helped but it would be great if we all aimed for 100% attendance this half term. Just a polite reminder that our school day starts from 8:50am. Please ensure your child arrives promptly by 9am so the register can be taken and for a smooth start to our school day.

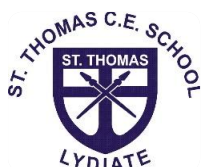
Communication

Any messages regarding collection arrangements or medical/ medicines must be communicated via the office or on drop off at the classroom door. As you can understand, it is of paramount importance that I see each child into the classroom of a morning and welcoming each child is an important part of my day.

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

Miss Williams

**Please see overleaf for an overview about what
we will be learning this half term.**



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Year Four Curriculum Map – Spring 1

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 for multi-step word problems. We will also be doing lots of times table practise, ahead of the Y4 Time Tables test this summer.	English In English, we will be reading and exploring, 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' by Joe Todd Stanton. We will explore the book through a range of different writing genres, including poetry and narrative writing. The children will continue to work on different writing features such as fronted adverbials. Our whole class guided reading sessions will focus on a range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction texts.	RE In RE, we will focussing 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 This half term in History, we will be learning about the foundations of Ancient Rome upon completion of our Alexander the Great unit. We will explore the myth of Romulus and Remus, early settlement by the River Tiber, the early kings and the development of the Roman Republic. We will also study the Punic Wars, Hannibal, the Roman army, religion, roads, myths, and Roman politics.	Geography This half term in Geography, we will be learning about the River Rhine and the Mediterranean. We will study Cologne, Rotterdam and other Rhine cities, the river's mouth, and how humans have changed its course through canals. We will also explore the Mediterranean Sea and Suez Canal, developing map and photograph skills while linking learning about water, resources and settlement growth.	Science In Science, our topic for this half term is Ecology. We will be learning about: • Living things and their habitats, • Food chains, • Ecosystems, • Air Pollution and human threats to the environment. • Human impact on our local environments.
PE In PE, we will be developing our swimming skills each Tuesday afternoon.	Visual 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 In PSHE, we will be looking at our My Happy Mind unit of Appreciate. This module is all about teaching children the importance of gratitude. It looks at a number of elements of gratitude, including: What happens in our brains when we give and receive gratitude? We link this back to the science of the brain covered in the 'Meet Your Brain' module and, critically, the Dopamine release that happens. The module is very much about the children learning to develop what we call an 'Attitude of Gratitude'

DT will be delivered by specialist DT teacher Mrs O'Donnell at set dates during the school year. We will also have whole days set aside during the school year for Computing.



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