

YEAR FOUR'S HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1

Welcome to Year Four!

I am so excited to welcome the children into Year 4. This year will be jam-packed with learning, laughter and lots of fun!

I feel incredibly lucky to have your children as my first class at St Thomas'. They are hard-working, respectful and kind members of our school, and I look forward to the year ahead. Mrs Hughes, who is also looking forward to teaching the children, will provide PPA cover every Monday morning, where she will teach two subjects.

On the school website, you will find our key information such as, spelling lists, subject knowledge organisers and termly newsletters.

Home Learning

In Year Four, we continue to prioritise reading and 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. We will continue to monitor our Accelerated Reading quizzes, where children will be recognised and congratulated on their efforts.

Pupils will continue to be encouraged to access Times Table Rockstars and take part in numerous battles throughout the course of the year. A strong times table knowledge builds an excellent foundation for mathematical understanding, so please do encourage your child to access TT Rockstars daily.

During the summer term, Y4 complete a national times tables test, so this is a real area of focus for us. From Autumn 1, in class, we will access TTRS two mornings a week, giving the children opportunity to practice with their peers. As well as this, one maths lesson a week will be purely focused on multiplication and we will have weekly multiplication quizzes, on Friday after our spelling test.

Spellings will be sent home at the beginning of each term, and they can also be accessed on the school website. We will begin our spelling tests from the week commencing 11th September.

As in previous years, a home learning menu will be sent home at the start of each half term, providing your child with lots of different ideas to further their learning at home. We encourage pupils to complete at least one activity from the menu per half term. We will dedicate time at the end of each half term to share and celebrate any work completed from the menus. The menu for this half term is attached.

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 reading book and journal in their book bag every day. Letters sent home, will be placed in book bags, so please do check frequently for these. We ask that rucksacks and additional bags are not brought in unless it is a swimming day or for an after-school club.

Seesaw

Seesaw will continue to be used by class teachers and your login details should hopefully stay the same. If you have any problems logging in, please let us know and we can send the details home. Seesaw will be used to upload pupil photographs and to showcase excellent work. Please note that the message function will not be in use. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please make an appointment to do so at the school office.



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



PE/music

Our PE lessons will be on a Tuesday afternoon. We are attending swimming lessons from Autumn 1. Please ensure your child's permission slip has been returned to school.

The children are fortunate that they will be continuing with Djembe drumming lessons this half term. These are led by a specialist drumming teacher and the children were fabulous at picking this up last year in Year 3, so we're expecting amazing things! We will be arranging a performance to showcase their talents, so watch this space!

Meet the Teacher(s)

We will hold our annual Meet the Teacher meeting on: 20th September 2023 at 3:40pm, in the Year 4 classroom. Please do come along to this meeting if possible, as we will give out plenty of important information about the year ahead whilst also giving parents an opportunity to ask questions.

Please let me know if you have any worries, concerns or just something you would like to discuss. It is my priority to ensure that all pupils settle into their new school year positively, feeling safe, comfortable and happy.

Thank you for your support,
Miss Hayde

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



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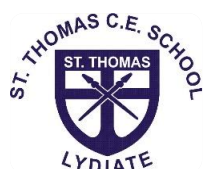


Year Four Curriculum Map – Autumn 1

In the autumn term, we will be learning about:

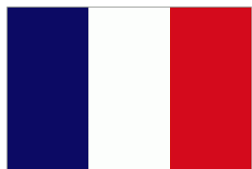
Maths In maths we will be learning about numbers and their place value up to 10 000. We will be using concrete materials to represent numbers up to 10 000. We will also be comparing, rounding and making number patterns. We will then move on to the addition and subtraction of numbers within 10 000 using a range of written and mental strategies. We will also be doing lots of times table practise, ahead of the Y4 Time Tables test next summer.	English This half term we will be reading and exploring the fiction book ‘The Whale’ written by Vita Murrow. After analysing, enjoying and responding to the text, the children will plan and gather ideas to write a setting narrative and a news paper report. The children will explore language features, text structures and will then apply their own skills and knowledge to independent written work.	RE In RE, we will be exploring prayer. Some key questions we will cover include: • What is prayer? • What do the words of the Lord’s prayer really mean?
History In history, we will be studying The Romans and thinking about ‘Life in Ancient Rome.’ In particular, we will be learning lots of new vocabulary related to Ancient Rome. We will look at locating Rome, Rome’s different governments, the destruction of Pompeii and the influence of Latin today.	Geography In geography, we will be building on the previously taught unit ‘Spatial Sense’ taught in Year Three. We will be looking at globe features such as the equator and lines of longitude and latitude. We will be looking at how maps are drawn to scale and how grid references are used.	Science In science, we will be focussing on the human body, in particular the process of digestion and teeth. We will be learning about the names and functions of our teeth. We will also look at how teeth are used to digest food and what happens once we swallow our food! We will learn about cells, nutrients, vitamins and minerals and the important role they have on our body.
PE In PE, we will be attending swimming lessons, where children will continue to build on their swimming skills, already embedded in Year 3. Please refer to the letter given at the start of term, discussing rules regarding swim wear and jewellery.	MFL We will build on our core vocabulary in French, which was taught in Year Three, throughout this half term. We will look at the topic ‘As-Tu Un Animal?’ ‘Do you have a Pet?’ We will learn the names of some pet animals and focus on asking and answering questions about pets.	PSHE In PSHE, we will be looking at our ‘HeartSmart’ scheme. Our initial lessons will be around the theme ‘Get HeartSmart.’ Where we will encourage the children to love themselves and others. Music We will continue with our weekly djembe drumming lessons this half term.

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.



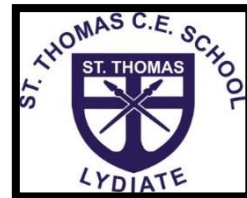
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Year Four - Autumn 1

Home Learning Menu



Create an information text all about pets

The leaflet is to be aimed at Reception children and feature lots of pictures of animals with their animal name written in both English and French. You may want to do some extra research into colours and add them on too. For example: The black cat = Le chat noir (notice how the colour goes after the name of the pet).

Write a speech in French

Write a short paragraph about yourself and your pets. After lots of rehearsing and practice at speaking fluently in French, record a video or a voice clip to upload to SeeSaw. (If you do not have your own pet is there a family pet you could talk about?)

Plan a lesson

It's your turn to be the teacher. Plan and make some resources to teach a French lesson about pets to a Year Two class. Think about the vocabulary you would like them to learn and a short task they can complete following on from your lesson. You could even create a lesson presentation.

Alphabet Animals

Using each letter of the alphabet, research an animal beginning with each letter in French. Use your creativity about how you will present these. You could make a book, create flashcards or on the computer.

Independent research

Following on from the pet names on your subject knowledge organiser, carry out your own research into other types of animals. Produce a knowledge organiser for a different category of animals, for example underwater animals, farm animals or animals you'd find in the zoo.



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