

YEAR FOUR'S HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2

Welcome back, we hope you have all enjoyed a lovely and restful half term holiday. It was lovely to speak to you all during our parent's evening a couple of weeks ago. We have updated the school website with key information for this half term, including: spelling lists, subject knowledge organisers, reminders and photographs. You will find this information under 'Children' and then 'Class Pages'.

Home Learning

In Year Four, we continue to prioritise reading. 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. As usual, we will complete a fortnightly reading raffle as an incentive for children to read frequently. As you may have read from a recent letter from Mrs Ben-Ali, we will be starting a new 'Accelerated Reader' programme this half term. Please bear with us while we sort out new home reading books to send home and get into the new routine of children completing quizzes in school when they have finished a book.

As discussed during our parents' consultations, we are continuing to encourage the children to access Times Table Rockstars regularly at home. Another great website, which is setup in the style of the online check the children will access in the Summer Term can be found if you Google 'Maths Frame Multiplication Check'.

Spellings for this half term have been sent home and a copy can be found online. We will begin our spelling tests from the week commencing 8th November and will continue to record results in journals.

Our home learning menu has been attached and this half term links to our Geography topic, 'The Mediterranean'. We encourage pupils to complete at least one activity from the menu per half term to further their learning at home. We will dedicate time at the end of the half term to share and celebrate any work completed from the menus.

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.

Seesaw

Last half term we sent home revised QR codes for accessing Seesaw. If you have had any problems logging in, please let us know and we can send the details home. Seesaw may be used to send announcements, in the event of a child self-isolating, or to showcase excellent work.

PE

Our PE lessons will be on a Tuesday afternoon, this half term we will be indoors doing gymnastics. Please ensure that indoor PE kit is kept in school, the girls may prefer to avoid wearing tights on Tuesdays! We will begin our 10-week block of swimming lessons on Tuesday 30th November at the Meadows Leisure Centre.

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



Mrs Hughes and Mrs Shaw

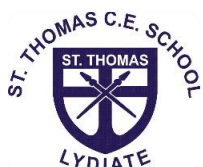
Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



Year Four Curriculum Map

In the autumn term, we will be learning about:

Maths In maths we will be continuing our work on addition and subtraction of numbers within 10 000, using a range of written and mental strategies. We will also learn methods to help with multiplication and division (up to 3 digit numbers). Through both of these units, we will be solving word problems, understanding which calculation is required. We will also continue with lots of times table practise, ahead of the Y4 Time Tables test next summer.	English In English we will be reading and exploring 'The Wild Robot' by Peter Brown. This is a fable like tale, about a robot that is accidentally activated, having been washed up on a remote island when a cargo ship sinks. We will explore the book through a range of different writing genres, including information texts, poetry and a letter of apology. Our whole class guided reading sessions will focus on a range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction texts.	RE In RE, we will be focussing on Christmas and exploring the symbolism of light. We will be considering how Jesus and the actions of his followers brings light into people's lives. Some key questions we will cover include: • Why is Jesus described as the Light of the World? • Why is light such a powerful symbol? • Is light a good metaphor for Jesus? • The sun already lights the world so how can Jesus be the light?
History In history, we will be building on our previously learnt knowledge about Roman life and learning about 'The Rise and Fall of Ancient Rome.' We will study the Punic Wars, Julius Caesar and learn about Christianity in the Roman Empire.	Geography In geography, we will be learning all about Mediterranean Europe. We will be locating the countries, using maps, atlases and globes. By the end of the unit the children should be able to locate and describe features of given Mediterranean countries (Southern Europe).	Science In science, we will be focussing on Classification of Plants and Animals. We learn about what classification is and why it is used. We will also learn about vertebrates and invertebrates and the characteristics of the animal classes including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, insects, arachnids and molluscs. We will learn about the two main classification groups of plants.
PE Gymnastics: Partner work, pushing and pulling This half term, we will compose, and then perform, a sequence with contrasting and matching shapes and moves. We will learn to use the correct technical vocabulary to evaluate gymnastic performances. Swimming lessons will begin on Tuesday 30th November 21.	PHSE In PHSE, we will be looking at our 'HeartSmart' scheme. We will cover lessons on 'Too much selfie isn't healthy!' During these lessons the children will explore how to be aware of their surroundings, whilst developing their skills of reading the feelings of others.	D&T We will work with Mrs O'Donnell this half term to design, make and evaluate a hydraulic head operated with a water-filled syringe. Our D&T day will take place on Monday 8th November. Visual Art In Art, we will be learning about 'Light' and how artists use tone to show drama and form in their paintings. We will study the artwork of the famous artists Caravaggio and Vermeer and practise using the technique: chiaroscuro



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