

YEAR FOUR'S HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER – Spring 1

Welcome back, I hope you have all enjoyed a peaceful Christmas. As the new year 4 teacher at St Thomas' I hope you don't mind me saying it has been lovely meeting some of you, however briefly, over my first few weeks at the school. I have certainly received a very warm reception for which I am very grateful. Hopefully I will be able to speak with you in due course when things begin to settle down – I am certainly looking forward to getting to know you all! In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns then please feel free to speak to me in person at the beginning or the end of the day. I will also be available online through Seesaw.

The school website has been updated 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. You are probably already familiar with our new 'Accelerated Reader' programme. 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 continue to record spelling test results in journals.

We encourage pupils to complete at least one activity from the Home Learning 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

If you have had any problems logging in to Seesaw, please let us know and we can send new details. 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. We still have a few weeks of swimming lessons left at the Meadows leisure centre before we revert back to gymnastics. Please ensure that indoor PE kit is kept in school, the girls may prefer to avoid wearing tights on Tuesdays!

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.



Mr Culshaw

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



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 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said. Varjak is a Mesopotamian Blue cat who is an cast out from the safety of his family home and let loose on the wild and dangerous world outside. We will explore the book through a range of different writing genres, including information texts, poetry and a survival manual. 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 '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, our new topic will be: 'James I and the Gunpowder Plot.' We will be learning about: • The Union of Crowns • The Divine Right of Kings • The Gunpowder Plot and how it was stopped • Guy Fawkes	Geography In Geography, following on from our unit on the Mediterranean (Southern Europe), we will be learning all about Eastern Europe. We will learn about: • Key Places in Eastern Europe • The climate of Eastern Europe • Russia • Compare and contrast physical features of Moscow and the UK	Science In Science, our topic for this half term is 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 We will continue our swimming lessons on a Tuesday afternoon at the Meadows.	MFL Our MFL topic for this half term will be looking at clothing.	PHSE In PHSE, we will be looking at our 'Heart Smart' scheme. We will continue to cover lessons on 'Too much Selfie isn't healthy'.
Music This is our final half term of Djembe drumming lessons with a specialist teacher. These music lessons take place for one hour every Thursday morning.		