

YEAR FOUR'S HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER – Spring 2

Welcome back, I hope you have all managed a peaceful break during our short half term holiday. It has been lovely to begin to get to know some of you during my first full half term, please feel free to introduce yourself if we haven't had the chance to speak as of yet. I am usually available to speak briefly at the start and end of the day.

We have updated the school website with key information for this half term. 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.

Hopefully our 'Accelerated Reader' programme is now more familiar to most of you. Most children are now in the routine of 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 and a copy can be found online.

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.

We encourage pupils to complete at least one activity from the online 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

Seesaw may be used to send announcements, in the event of a child self-isolating, or to showcase excellent work. Please let us know if you have any problems logging in.

PE

We will continue swimming lessons on Tuesday afternoons at the Meadows Leisure Centre for this half term. Please ensure children are sent in with swimming cap, goggles, swimming costume and towel.

If you have any worries or concerns or if there is anything you want to discuss please contact me via Seesaw, or by calling the school office and I will be happy to speak to you either by phone or in person at the school.

Mr Culshaw



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



Maths <i>In Maths we will be working through our unit on fractions. This includes equivalent fractions, improper fractions, mixed numbers, adding and subtracting fractions.</i> <i>We will also continue with lots of discrete times table practise, ahead of the Y4 Time Tables test next summer.</i>	English <i>In English we will be concluding our 'pourquoi' tale How the Stars Came to Be by Poonam Mystry. This is a beautifully illustrated story with an alternative take on how the stars came into existence.</i> <i>Following this, we will be reading E.B. White's classic 'Charlotte's Web'. The novel tells the story of a livestock pig named Wilbur and his friendship with a barn spider named Charlotte</i> <i>Our whole class guided reading sessions will focus on a range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction texts.</i>	RE <i>In RE, we will be 'Exploring Easter as a story of betrayal and trust.'</i> <i>This theme will allow children to:</i> <i>reflect upon the importance of power and the effect of betrayal, trust and forgiveness.</i> <i>deepen their understanding of the concept of salvation.</i> <i>focus on the significance of the incidents of betrayal and trust in the Easter story.</i>
History <i>In History, our new topic will be: 'The English Civil War.'</i> <i>We will be learning about:</i> <i>Charles I's disastrous reign.</i> <i>The Roundheads and the Cavaliers.</i> <i>Oliver Cromwell and the Commonwealth.</i>	Geography <i>In Geography, following on from our unit on Eastern Europe we will be learning about Northern Ireland. Including:</i> <i>Identifying key geographical features of Northern Ireland such as Giant's Causeway.</i> <i>Tourist destinations in Northern Ireland.</i> <i>Understanding the reasons for the partitioning of Northern Ireland.</i>	Science <i>In Science this half term we will be learning all about Sound. Focusing on:</i> <i>How sound is produced.</i> <i>How sound travels through the air.</i> <i>The difference between pitch and volume.</i> <i>How the ear works.</i>
PE <i>We will continue our swimming lessons on a Tuesday afternoon at the Meadows.</i>	Art <i>In Art this half term we will commence a new unit on Space. This is to include:</i> <i>How artists create the illusion of 3D.</i> <i>How depth is created through foreground, middleground and background.</i> <i>How colour can create depth.</i>	PHSE <i>In PHSE, we will be looking at our 'Heart Smart' scheme. We will cover lessons on our unit 'Fake is a Mistake'.</i>

Year Four

Home Learning Menu



Science through Art!

Show your Science knowledge through art. Be inspired by these examples of Sound as an Art form. Can you create your own Sound Art?

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/sound-art>



Time to Teach

Can you teach others about how Sound is created? Make a video or cartoon strip explaining how it works. Can you include our Star words and actions? Model and explain these in your video or in your lessons to others.



Ready to Report

Create a report about the Concord supersonic aeroplane. See if you can find out: How fast was it? Who invented it? How did it change air travel?



Investigate

In 2014 Felix Baumgartner became the first person to freefall faster than the speed of sound. How did he achieve this feat? Investigate and write a newspaper article or video report containing all the details.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJxsj51d-Pk>

Have it your own way!

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