



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. We hope you and your family had an enjoyable summer break and that your child has started to settle into the routines which come with being in Year 4. To make the home school partnership easier and to ensure it works effectively in supporting your child, here is some information about the topics we will be covering in the curriculum between now and Christmas. We hope it is both interesting and useful.

Reading

Reading is the key to access every area of the curriculum. Children should read on a daily basis. They are aware that they need to take their diary home every afternoon and bring it into school the following morning. The expectation this year is that your child will make an independent entry in their reading diary each evening. Ideas for meaningful comments can be found stuck into the inside cover of their reading diaries. We encourage a range of these to be recorded during the course of a week.

Even though they do this part of the task independently, please continue to hear your child read aloud as much as you are able, even if they are fluent readers. It is of benefit if, while reading with them, you explore the text together, questioning them on meaning and discussing any unfamiliar vocabulary or terms. This is invaluable in supporting their comprehension skills. Research shows that children who read regularly reap the benefits in many areas, not least their confidence. When a book doesn't 'float the boat', try to use fun games like searching for a word on a page in a limited amount of time (good for skimming skills). You could take roles as you read together; you become the narrator, your child the characters in the story reading aloud the direct speech. This encourages them to look closely at the punctuation and it can become a really fun activity if they are encouraged to use dialect or different voices to distinguish one character from another. The reading diary can also be used for communication should you wish to add your own comments. Your views are always helpful. In addition, please encourage your child to include entries in their diary for any additional books they read at home, whether they're fiction or non-fiction. We enjoy seeing their choices as it can tell us so much about them individually.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on Google Classroom usually on Thursday to be back the following Tuesday. Generally, your child will be given an English and Maths task each week alongside weekly spellings although occasionally other subjects may be included. Homework should be neatly presented; we have the same expectations for homework as we do for work completed in the classroom. While it is set on Google Classroom, the task should be completed in your child's homework exercise book.

Already the children have completed a diagnostic spelling assessment so, following this, they will be given a weekly spelling list to learn for a test the following Wednesday. This will be done using Spelling Shed which your child is already familiar with. Spelling Stars will also be given out at the beginning of every term for a test on the Wednesday of the final week. Please encourage your child to practise spellings on a regular basis, whether its weekly spellings following a pattern or Spelling Star words. It will benefit them considerably as they continue through Key Stage 2. In addition, the children will have a times table to learn each week depending on which ones they know already. They will be tested each Monday. This is to make sure that they are as fluent as possible for the national Multiplication Tables Check in June. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child is well prepared for this important test.

P.E.

Teal Class will have P.E on Monday each week with Mr. Whittle and again on Thursday. On these days, your child should come to school wearing their P.E. kit. **Please refer to the school website regarding correct P.E. kit** and please ensure all items are clearly named.

Classroom Equipment

The emphasis on handwriting and presentation will continue this year and the children have made an excellent start so far. We will be giving them clear development points to improve their handwriting and once they reach a

consistently high standard, they will be awarded a pen licence. Please provide your child with two pencils, a handwriting pen, (when they receive a pen license) a rubber, a ruler, a sharpener and coloured pencils. These items should all be named. The space in cloakrooms, which they share with Year 3, is limited so do discourage your child from bringing in unnecessary items. Bags should be small enough to fit on a peg. Thank you.

Curriculum

In English this term, we are studying 'George's Marvellous Medicine', looking at character and description and word groups. Alongside writing, the children will be using evidence from the text to illustrate the characters in their sketch books. Next term we will study 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. As part of regular Big Writes, the children will be exposed to a range of genres and writing styles. They will learn how to write descriptively using a range of figurative language, they will write in the style of a diary and a poem and they will explore types of non-fiction writing so they have a good understanding of how a newspaper report differs from a fact file for instance.

In maths we will be continuing with learning times tables in preparation for the MTC, (Multiplication Tables Check) in June and also deepening our understanding of place value, rounding, addition and subtraction. We will continue to look at different strategies for calculating while building confidence in mental maths. In science we are studying animals including humans, focusing on the digestive system. During Science & Technology Week we will cover the topic of sound, returning to digestion the following week. Our history topic will cover the Anglo Saxons followed by a geography focus after half term with an emphasis on atlas skills, map work, compass points and direction. In Computing we will be learning about systems and networks. In RE we will consider the question 'Do Murti's help Hindu's to understand God?' followed by 'Does the Christmas Narrative need Mary?' In line with Computing, Art and Design and Design and Technology, this year we will be using the excellent online platform, 'Kapow' for our studies in PSHE and Music as well. In PSHE this term, we will cover the topics, Family and Relationships and Health and Wellbeing. In music, our topics will focus on using tuned percussion instruments with the Rainforest as a stimulus. This will precede a topic looking at Rock n Roll.

Once again, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact – we will endeavor to call you if you send an email to office@holytrinitysch.co.uk. Alternatively, as part of our open-door policy, please feel free to catch us at the end of the day at pick-up.

We look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss your child's individual progress formally at Parents' Evening. Dates for this will be published on the school's weekly newsletter.

With very best wishes,

Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Weller