

Spring Newsletter Year 4

St. Mary's & St. Peter's C of E Primary School

January 2017

Curriculum Information

English The range of texts this term will cover both fiction and non-fiction. In our story-writing topics, we will look at stories set in historical settings and stories from other cultures. We will also explore poetry with a particular emphasis on the use of spoken language. In our fiction writing, we will be developing the children's ability to use expressive, descriptive and figurative language. Our non-fiction topic will explore persuasive writing and will look at accurate and interesting sentence construction and punctuation. There will also be an emphasis on the organising and structuring of ideas. The children will be developing their spelling and reading skills through regular personal reading and group sessions. These will involve comprehension analysis i.e. information retrieval, deduction and inference, as well as investigating spelling patterns with an emphasis on suffixes. We will be encouraging all children to join their writing as well as focus on the presentation of their work, in order to obtain their Pen Licence.



Maths The term will begin by focusing on place value. We will then develop the children's addition and subtraction calculation skills, including mental and formal written methods. Written multiplication and division will also feature, so please keep up regular times tables practice. Other topics will include measures, fractions, decimals and their equivalence to fractions, angles and properties of shapes. Homework will continue to reinforce the topics covered in lessons.

Science Our first topic will be *States of Matter* during which we will think about the differences between solids, liquids and gases. We will look at the processes of melting, freezing and dissolving. We will also be investigating how some materials can be separated and focus on how the same material can exist as both a solid and liquid. The second topic will be the study of *Electricity*. We will construct circuits, investigate common conductors and insulators and look at how switches work.



Geography Our Geography topics focus on both global and local geography. We start the term with the topic '*Weather around the World*' where we will investigate the different world climates and look at their relationship to tourism. We will use maps, books, the internet, DVDs and other secondary sources. Before we go to Sayers Croft, we will spend some time familiarising ourselves with the locality and discovering its geographical features.





Computing Children will be creating a simple educational game this term using Scratch. They will also learn how to edit and write an HTML. As well as this, in Geography they will be presenting the weather using video and presentation software.



R.E./P.S.H.E. We will be studying who Jesus really is, by looking at the “I am” sayings. We will also be considering whether every Christian should go on a pilgrimage, which will lead on to a tour of our local churches. This will have a focus on how Holy Communion is celebrated in each church. In PSHE we will be looking at the theme of feelings and relationships.

P.E. Indoor PE will consist of SMSP Dance Challenge and gymnastics, whilst outdoor PE will be hockey and netball skills. 4A will be going swimming this term therefore swimming kit will be required every Thursday. P.E. kit will be needed in school all week. 4T and 4N will both start swimming lessons after the Easter Holidays on Thursday 20th April.

Art/D.T. For the first half-term we will be learning about and making food from around the world, which is linked to our Geography topic of ‘*Weather around the World*’. Following this we will be reflecting on Journeys through Art and will be studying Aboriginal artwork. The children will be using the medium of textiles amongst other things.



Music We will begin the ‘Wider Opportunities’ Programme with the Richmond Music Trust. This term we are focusing on singing skills. We will also be going on a trip to the Royal Albert Hall on the 17th March where the children will watch a performance of the Classical Spectacular.

French This term we will be consolidating previous work as well as introducing countries, weather vocabulary and food choices.

Homework and General Information

The homework will continue to be two home learning tasks per week – one for Maths and one for English (usually in the form of a spelling investigation). Maths tasks will alternate between written work and online abacus games. All home learning tasks will be set on a Thursday, and should be returned by the following Tuesday. The children will be expected to practise their times tables at home each week as they will be tested weekly during mental Maths lessons.

Reading a variety of texts is important, even for the most able readers, and we would appreciate it if you would encourage home reading and discussion of the content to ensure good comprehension skills. Finally, providing a box of tissues and any glue sticks would also be greatly appreciated.

Mrs Novak, Mr Taylor and Mr Austin



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Sayers Croft Information Evening for Parents - 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd February.

Do join us for this opportunity to find out more about our exciting trip.

The dates for our Sayers Croft trip this year will be Wednesday 29th - Friday 31st March.

New date for 4T Class Assembly - 9:00am Friday 3rd March

