

Year 4 Class Newsletter



Autumn Term 2017

Welcome to Holy Trinity

We would like to welcome you all back and we hope you have had a wonderful summer.

This newsletter contains information about what you should expect from the Autumn term.

If at any time you have any questions or you are unsure of anything please ask. Staff are always happy to speak to you if you have any questions or concerns. Please contact the office and an appointment can be made for a convenient time.

What does learning look like in Year 4?

Year 4 are currently teaching in accordance with the National Curriculum. Maths and English are taught daily, as is guided reading and handwriting.

Maths

Maths is taught daily, in the morning before lunchtime, where we will be focusing on number, subtraction and addition using the columnar method and then moving onto shapes and statistics as the autumn term progresses. In addition to our Maths lessons, the children will be learning their times tables facts throughout the year and will be tested weekly on their progress.

English

In English, the children will begin by writing their own poetry. The children will learn about, write and perform a range of poems. We will then focus on traditional myths and legends, which will culminate in the children creating their own myths and legends writing. As the autumn term progresses, we will also look at report writing. Discrete grammar lessons will be taught in accordance with the text we will be studying. Guided Reading is taught daily, where the children read a book with Miss Rowden, whilst also completing independent comprehension activities based on the focused text. As a class, we will be reading Charlotte's Web and, later in the term, the Horrible Histories- Rotten Romans in order to tie in with our topic.

Science

In the autumn term we will be focusing on Animals, including humans. We will begin by looking at our human bodies (more specifically the digestive system and how we process the food we eat) and then move onto teeth and food chains. After half term, our focus will shift to the water cycle, looking closely at both evaporation and condensation as well as the features of rivers.

Important reminders

- Please make sure all items of uniform are clearly named.
- Please make sure any money sent into school is in a labeled envelope.
- Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school every day.
- Homework will be focused on topic based and set half termly.
- Please listen to your child read every day.

Our motto is:

Alta Pete – Aim High

"The primary aim of the school is to help each pupil reach his or her full potential so that they may develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to take full advantage of the opportunities available in their future lives."



Foundation Subjects

Our topic for this half term will be the Romans. We will learn about many aspects of the Roman Empire; a highlight of this topic will be our school trip to the Roman Festival in St Albans in a few weeks time! Our Romans topic will be the focus of our Design and Technology lessons this half term where we will be making Roman shields from cereal boxes! Our topic after half term will be Extreme Earth and will have a geographical focus. In RE, we will be learning about the Jewish religion and asking, 'How special is the relationship Jews have with God?' followed by Christianity and focusing on 'What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?', just in time for Christmas!

Physical Development

PE will take place every Thursday afternoon with Miss Plant and every Monday afternoon with Miss Rowden. Please ensure your child has a named PE kit in school every day as sometimes the lesson times can change due to special events. Children are required to remove or cover earrings for all PE lessons. It is preferred that children have a black pair of trainers and navy blue/black jogging bottoms included in their PE kit as some PE lessons will take place outside.

Homework

Homework is given to develop an effective partnership between home and school. Homework set will be in the style of a topic based project (The Romans followed by Extreme Earth) according to our new homework policy. The project will be set at the end of each half term, with a handing in date set for the end of the half term. There will be a 'check date' in the middle of the term so that the children's progress can be checked. Apart from this, the children will have ownership of when they complete the tasks and be able to submit their learning before the due date should they wish.

Homework is the responsibility of the child with the support of parents. Homework encourages independence and responsibility in the children.

The Reading Records are also important, so please sign them when you listen to your child read. Reading has a big focus in year 4, ideally each child should **read** at home **each evening**. This term, the children will be introduced into the Accelerated Reader scheme that has been put into place in years 4 and 5. The children will take an initial test to determine which range of books they are able to read. They will then take a computer based comprehension test when they finish each book. I'm sure the children will tell you all about this!



Children will learn spellings and times tables weekly, in class. The words to learn will be integrated into lessons and our daily handwriting. Each week there will be a focused times table for the children to learn. This will tie in with their learning in school and they will be tested on these times tables at the end of the week. We will sing songs and play games in school for the children to be able to know all of their times tables up to 12x by the end of the year - a requirement of the year 4 curriculum and an impending addition to the Y6 SATs.

We hope this year will be an exciting and progressive year for your children, and I hope this information has been helpful.

Any queries that may arise can be discussed after school, or at the upcoming parents meeting. Anything urgent please, contact me via the school office.

The year 4 team - Miss. Rowden, Mrs. Davey and Mrs. Smith