



St Michael's Church of England Primary School



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Year 4 Newsletter - January 2022

Happy New Year! We hope you've had a lovely break over Christmas and that the children are now refreshed and ready for another busy and exciting term!

Topics for this term:

In **English** we are reading "Hortense and the Shadow" by L. O'Hara, learning key skills in using direct speech, fronted adverbials and conjunctions and applying them in short burst writing tasks. In the second part of this term, we will be focusing on non-fiction texts linked to our History topic about the Romans and we will be writing a newspaper report on the Roman Invasion.

In **Maths**, we continue to work on multiplication, including written methods to multiply and divide two and three digit numbers, before moving onto fractions.

Regular practice of times tables at home using TTRs will greatly support children's learning in fractions, as well as helping them to prepare for the Year 4 multiplication tables check in June. Mrs Peachey has made a video to show you how to use TTRS at home with ideas for if your child doesn't like the time pressure or just wants to practise on times table. You can find this on Google Classroom

In **Science** we will be practising our investigative skills through our topic "Electricity", where we will be planning and setting up comparative tests, recording data and interpreting our results.

In our **R.E** topic "*People of God*" we will be learning stories about Noah and Abraham, and their relationship with God.

Our **Jigsaw** topic is 'Dreams and Goals' where we will be thinking about having big dreams, setting realistic goals and how to cope when our dreams don't turn out how we want them to or we don't quite achieve our goals.

For **PE**, we will be doing dance on a Monday and invasion games on a Friday.

In **DT** we will be focusing on structures by learning about Ancient Roman buildings and structures.

Our **Computing** this term is all using scratch to learn about programming.

In **French** our topic is 'Food'.

P.E kit:

The children have P.E on Mondays and Fridays this term. Children need to wear their school PE kits into school on these days. School PE kit is a white T-shirt, trainers, black shorts or joggers and a black or school sweatshirt.

In **History** we will be learning about the Romans by asking 'What did the Romans leave behind?'



Homework:

Homework in Year 4 is reading, spelling and times tables. Spellings are set on a Friday. The spellings will be put on Google Classroom each Friday, although if you have trouble accessing this, your child can take a sheet with the spellings home. You can also practise the spelling pattern on Spelling Shed. Multiplication tests and spelling tests are every Friday. Reading records will be checked on a Monday.

Reading:

Most of your child's reading in school is through whole class reading, so **it is very important to listen to your child read at home** as often as possible, aiming for a minimum of four times a week for 10 minutes. Reading records are checked every Monday and your child can change their book on a Monday if required.

Spelling Shed

We can see the difference it makes in children's spelling tests when they have been practising the assignments set every week! Your child's password and user name is inside their reading record. The Spelling Shed games are a great way to help learn the spelling pattern for that week, and provide extra practice as they include more words

than we set to learn for the weekly test. The spellings that will be in the test on Friday are the ones we select to be the most useful to help them in their writing. We also include 3 spellings from the Year 3/4 Statutory Spelling List.

Times Tables Rock Stars

It is important that Year 4 children learn all of their tables up to 12X12 by the end of the year. We have learnt all but the 8 and 12 times tables in class now and the 8 and 12s will be learnt over the next few weeks. Please use Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) as often as possible, this is a great way for the children to practise their tables at speed. The national multiplication tables check will be completed with a very similar set up to TTRS in June.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to ask:

Mon-Wed: Mrs Peachey

Leanne.peachey@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk

Thu-Fri: Mrs Burch

Please email the office and they will be able to forward it.

Many thanks,
Mrs Peachey and Mrs Burch