



St Michael's Church of England Primary School

~ Learn Care Enjoy ~



Year 4 Newsletter – February 2024

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

Topics for this term:

In **English** we will be reading the book "Hortense and the Shadow" by L. O'Hara and learning key skills in using and applying direct speech, fronted adverbials and conjunctions in short burst writing tasks.

In **Maths**, we will be focusing on fractions and decimals. We have been working hard to learn our times tables and a secure knowledge of multiplication and division facts will really support our work in fractions this term.

In **History** we are continuing to learn about the Ancient Greeks and the impact they had on our lives today. We will be learning in more detail about the Olympic games, Greek Gods and Goddesses and Ancient Greek theatre.

In **Science** we will learn about "Sound". We will be investigating which materials would make the best ear defenders and carrying out comparative tests on changing volume and pitch.

In our **R.E** topic "What is the Trinity?" we will be finding out how Christians

show their beliefs through prayer and baptism, and express their ideas about God through art and poetry.

Our **Jigsaw** topic is 'Healthy Me' where we will be thinking about friendships and group dynamics. We will also be looking at the facts about smoking and alcohol.

For **PE**, we will be focusing on the Cognitive skills (explaining what I am doing well and identifying areas for improvement). The fundamental movement skills are 'dynamic balance on a line' and 'coordination - ball skills'.

In **French** our topic this term is all about Habitats.

In **Music**, we will have our final term of learning the ukulele and we will be holding a concert for parents and carers in the school hall on **Tuesday 26th March at 2.30**. More details will follow soon.

P.E kit:

The children continue to 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.

Homework:

Homework in Year 4 is reading, spelling and times tables. Spellings are set on a Friday. In order to streamline homework across the school, we will no longer set homework on Google Classroom. Instead, an overview sheet will be sent home on a Friday, which will include the spellings for the week. You can also practise the spelling pattern on Spelling Shed. Multiplication tests are daily 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 **really 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

The spelling shed games can really help your child to learn the spelling pattern each week, and also challenge them to extend their vocabulary by using

additional words that have the same pattern. Your child's password and user name is inside their reading record. 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

It is important that Year 4 children learn all of their tables up to 12X12 by the end of the year. We are trialling using a sound pattern to learn our timestables. Please see below for extra information about how we are learning our timetables in year 4 and some helpful tips you can try at home. Little and often throughout the day is our motto, so you may often hear us chanting our tables as we leave at the end of the day. To help consolidate this work, please use Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) at home as often as possible, as this is a great way for the children to practise their tables at speed.

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

Mon-Wed: Mrs Duncan & Thu-Fri: Mrs Burch

Many thanks,
Mrs Duncan and Mrs Burch



Times Tables

36 facts to take us up to 9×9 - the building block facts

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8
2 tt	5tt	3tt	4tt	6tt	7tt	8tt	9tt
2×2							
3×2	3×5	3×3					
4×2	4×5	4×3	4×4				
5×2	5×5						
6×2	6×5	6×3	6×4	6×6			
7×2	7×5	7×3	7×4	7×6	7×7		
8×2	8×5	8×3	8×4	8×6	8×7	8×8	
9×2	9×5	9×3	9×4	9×6	9×7	9×8	9×9
8 facts	7 facts	6 facts	5 facts	4 facts	3 facts	2 facts	1 fact

Year 4: 21 more facts

11×2	11×3	11×4	11×5	11×6	11×7	11×8	11×9	11×10	11×11	
12×2	12×3	12×4	12×5	12×6	12×7	12×8	12×9	12×10	12×11	12×12

Principles

1. Learn as a memorised phrase by repeating sound pattern out loud. Don't try to derive. If you don't know - copy down then learn later.
2. Learn each fact one way round only, then get confident at switching factors.
3. Don't think! (about the only time in maths when thinking is unhelpful!)
When trying to recall a fact, say the WHOLE number sentence out loud and see if the answer trips off your tongue.

Always say the largest number first, e.g for 8×4 & 4×8 say:

Eight fours are 32

How many eights are in 32. 32 divided by 8 is 4

4. Learn one new fact at a time. Don't try to learn the whole times table at once.

A decorative border of yellow stars with black outlines and shadows, arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

Our 5 Top Tips

1. Keep it positive, plan for success and celebrate what your child has got better at.
2. Little and often – one session every weekday if possible, even when they know them all.
3. Always have the facts your child doesn't know (or recently learnt facts) written out in front of them.
4. Every time your child says a times table fact, make sure they say the whole fact out loud, not just the answer.
5. Practice the one fact that your child is learning lots of times through the day. You **WILL** notice your child's recall improving!