

St James C of E Academy

Year 4

Autumn 1 Newsletter



Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are looking forward to getting to know all the children in Year 4 and to have a fantastic year. This year, the Year 4 team to teach and support the children consists of Miss Hughes, Miss Ms Makda, Ms Alison and Mrs Quincey.

We have planned some exciting topics for the children this year that we know they are going to thoroughly enjoy. The Autumn term is always a long term with lots to cram in. We ask for your support in encouraging your child to complete homework including reading every night.

Reading is one of the most important skills your child can develop. It helps build their vocabulary, boosts their imagination, and supports learning across all subjects. Just 10–15 minutes of reading each day at home can make a big difference to your child's confidence and progress. Sharing books together, asking questions, and talking about the story also helps children to think deeply and enjoy reading for pleasure. Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey.

All year 4 children will be expected to complete a National Online Times Tables test in the Summer Term. We will focus on a particular times table every week and time has been allocated to work on this every day. Please do encourage your child to practice every day and to use Times Tables Rockstars. Children will do a short test weekly to monitor progress.

We will keep you updated throughout the term on ClassDojo platform.

If you have any concerns, please message us on Dojo or via class email
Email address: YR4@stjames.covmat.org

We look forward to working in partnership with you to make this year a successful one for your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 4 Team

Notices

PE kit

Children come to school in PE kit on a Friday.

Books

Reading books and records need to be in school on a daily basis. Books can be changed any day during the week. Children will have the opportunity to choose a book from the library every Friday. This will happen during our weekly library session. This gives children the opportunity to choose from a vast variety of books.

Water

Please provide a filled water bottle that your child can drink from throughout the day.

Homework

Reading books should be read at least 3 times per week at home. Please sign in the reading record to indicate this.

Spelling shed with a minimum expectation of 5 games played weekly, logging on during at least to separate occasions.

Times tables rock stars with a minimum expectation of 500 coins per week.

In addition to this children will have a homework book. Work will be set on a grid consisting of a range of tasks linked to their work.

Key event this term

Harvest at ST James Church

English	Maths
In English, the children will be reading Theseus and the Minotaur which is a Greek myth and over the course of the term will be writing their own Greek myth. The children will be working hard on their presentation, spelling and grammar. After half term we will be reading Escape from Pompei where the children will write a newspaper report . We will be looking at description, using expanded noun phrases, speech and how to use inverted commas correctly. The children will learn how to use formal language.	During this term, we will begin with place value, working with numbers up to 10,000. Teaching the value of 4 digit numbers. We will use concrete resources to develop understanding, moving onto pictorial and abstract methods. The unit of work for addition and subtraction of 3 and 4 digit numbers will be taught after place value. Fluency will be a part of our daily maths learning to reinforce previous learning and understanding . Times Tables will become part of our daily routine and children will be tested on a weekly basis. Times Table Rock-stars use will be encouraged to help improve speed and accuracy.
Science	History and geography
Our first science topic will be the human body. Children will learn about simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans. They will Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions. Children will have learn about how they need a balanced meal to be healthy and get the necessary nutrients. We will then move onto classification of plants and animals. In this unit of work children will recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. They will explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.	Our first unit of work in History is Ancient Greece. In this unit we will learn about how democracy was formed in Greece, how the Spartans were fierce warriors and learn about Alexander the Great and his vast empire. Lastly, we will be learning about the origin of the Olympic Games and the important legacies that are still remembered today. Our first unit of work in Geography is spatial sense. In this unit children will learn about lines of latitude and longitude and revisit the equator and the poles. As they work through the unit, they will have opportunities to practice using grid references and will learn how to read and use map scale. This unit focuses on maps, how we use them and what information they give us about locations.
Art and Computing	RE , PSHE
For art we will begin with a unit of work of light. Children will explore how artists use light, they will use pencils, charcoal and acrylic paints to create still life drawings and paintings. Moving onto the unit of space where we will look at work from Matisse and Millet. In this unit children will explore how light, tone, form and space are used. In computing children will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure.	We will begin with a unit of work that looks at how worldviews lead you to make choices. Being a Church of England school means that we will also incorporate Understanding Christianity units of work into our curriculum. In PSHE, we will continue to follow the Jigsaw scheme as well as following our protective behaviours unit too where we revisit who is in our network. We will be teaching the children about the importance of being ourselves, communicating with others, understanding our own emotions and celebrating our differences.