



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr M Ramsay B.A (Hons) Primary Education

www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk



Fenby Avenue
Lascelles Park
DARLINGTON
DL1 4UB
Tel: 01325 380725
admin@stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a brilliant summer break. It's lovely to be back in school and see all of the children again. With your support, I am confident that we can continue to make sure that the children make fantastic progress again this academic year.

English

The English curriculum places high emphasis on the enjoyment of reading. As you know, regular reading has a huge impact on a child's progress and your support is always greatly appreciated in making sure that your child meets the expectation of reading every night. As your child is now moving into Year 4, I appreciate that they are growing in independence and will often enjoy reading independently. Please ensure that your child still reads out loud to you every day, as this will allow you to see their progress and to check their understanding. When your child reads independently, please take the time to talk to them about what they have read. The expectation is that children will read and have their learning journal signed every night.

Your child has access to Reading Eggspress at school and home. This program really helps to support the children's progress in reading. It is expected that children complete at least one level a week.

Please ensure your child brings their reading book and record to school each day.

Useful websites for English:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar> Lots of fun grammar games!

Work on grammar, punctuation and spelling is a very important part of the English curriculum and the expected level of spelling is very high. Spelling practice using Sir Linkalot will form part of the children's homework and we will complete a spelling test every Friday. In class we will work on a group of spellings each week. Repetition is key! Please find the Year 3/4 key words spelling list in your child's Learning Journal. These are common words, which the children are expected to know in addition to the curriculum requirements.

We will continue to build on the writing skills we developed in Year 3, consolidating the use of key punctuation marks to ensure that all sentences are punctuated correctly. We will also revise the use of speech punctuation and continue to develop understanding of the use of paragraphs.

Maths

We will continue to build on the knowledge gained in Year 3 throughout this term. We will begin with a focus on number and place value, working with 4-digit numbers and finding 1,000 more or less, as well as rounding to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000. We will also learn about negative numbers, when counting backwards beyond zero. Children will also learn to read Roman Numerals to 100. There is a real focus placed on developing times table knowledge in Year 4, and we will be working on consolidating knowledge of our times tables throughout the entire year. Children will learn all of their remaining tables and their related division facts in preparation for the Year 4 Times Tables Check at the end of the year. The multiplication tables check is an online test for all pupils in Year 4 across the country. Pupils are asked to answer 25 questions on times tables from 2x to 12x. They are given six seconds per question, with three seconds rest between each, so the check will last less than five minutes. The format of the check is very similar to Times Tables Rock Stars, so we encourage children to practice their tables using TTR for at least 15 minutes daily to prepare for this.

PLEASE REMIND CHILDREN THAT THURSDAY IS HOMEWORK DAY, WHEN ALL TASKS SET FOR THAT WEEK WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED.

Science

This half term we will be learning all about states of matter, and will investigate the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We will observe the changes that happen when substances change from a solid to a liquid, liquid to a solid and a liquid to a gas! Next half term we will be learning about sound, including differences in pitch and volume, and we will investigate how sound travels. Additionally, we will be learning to work scientifically when completing and recording our own practical experiments and learning how to make a fair test.

Our History topic for this half term is the Greeks, which will give us lots of exciting opportunities to explore Greek mythology; learn about the origins of democracy and the first Olympic Games! The BBC website [Who were the ancient Greeks? - BBC Bitesize](#) has some fantastic clips for your child to explore the Greeks further, with a great animated game that children can play.

In the second half of Autumn term, our Geography topic will focus on 'Our World'. We will build on locational knowledge, finding the Equator, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, the Tropics and linking these to our location. We will also practise our skills using maps, atlases, globes and computer based mapping systems.

In R.E we will be looking at the Gospel and the good news it shares. We will also be learning about different festivals and the stories and meanings behind these.

In PHSE we will be learning about safe relationships. We will learn to recognise healthy and unhealthy relationships, develop strategies to support us in situations where we feel uncomfortable and identify people we would speak to about our feelings. We will also explore online relationships, and consider how to



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manage these in order to keep ourselves safe.

PE will initially be on Tuesday and Friday. We ask that you send in a PE kit and leave it in school until half term to avoid children forgetting it. Please can you ensure all uniform and PE kit is named clearly. Children with pierced ears should only wear studs and should not wear these on PE days for health and safety reasons.

We are holding a 'Meet the Teacher' session on Tuesday 7th September (3:25 - 4:00) if you would like to drop in and say hello or have a look around your child's new classroom. It will be an opportunity for us to talk about the upcoming year and for me to answer any questions you might have. I am always in the playground after school for quick questions or I can answer messages on Class Dojo. Please arrange an appointment for anything that needs a longer chat.

I am so looking forward to having the opportunity to teach your children again this year. Your support was absolutely invaluable last year and the children made super progress as a result, even during such a difficult period. I am sure that this year will be a happy, settled and productive one!

Miss Currington
Year 4 Class Teacher



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