



# ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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

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## Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas break and are excited for the year ahead. We are looking forward to another exciting term in Year 4. I was so pleased to see how the children settled back into school during the Autumn term. They are working hard with lots of resilience and determination and are making super progress as a result.

### English

We are placing a large focus on reading a wide range of books and texts for pleasure. Your encouragement at home has been extremely beneficial and is appreciated. Please continue to read every night, allowing your child to read aloud, which will really build their confidence and fluency. It is very beneficial to discuss what has been read to check your child's understanding. The children have learned strategies to help them choose a book that is appropriate for their reading level. Children are also expected to read a book and complete the related quiz on Rising Stars Reading Planet as part of their weekly homework.

We will begin our writing work by focusing on poetry, using the beautiful poem 'The River' by Valerie Bloom as our starting point. This will be a great opportunity to explore lots of different grammatical features, as well as studying rhyme and rhythm. The children have really enjoyed studying a range of poems so far this year, and I am sure that this unit of work will produce some fantastic poetry writing!

World Book Day takes place on 3rd March. The children are encouraged to dress up as one of their favourite characters from a book. The costumes are always fantastic and we can't wait to see them!

Thank you for your support with some tricky spellings last term. Please continue to practise these as frequently as possible at home.

### Maths

Over the coming weeks, we will be working on multiplication and division, measuring, fractions and decimals. Children would benefit from extra opportunities to practise these skills, such as measuring out baking ingredients. As always, extra practise of fundamental skills such as times tables, counting money and telling the time are always encouraged and we would appreciate your support with this.

The children are continuing to make super progress with their times tables and the related division facts. Daily practise on Times Table Rock Stars will really help the children achieve the target of knowing all of their tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of the academic year.

### Science

In science this term we will be learning about electricity. This will include learning to construct a simple electrical circuit, and being able to identify its parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. Children will learn to recognise some common conductors and insulators. They will learn that metals are good conductors. Our science learning will then move on to learning about the human body, including describing the parts of the digestive system and their functions, identifying different types of human teeth and constructing and interpreting food chains.

Our **History** topic for the term is Roman Britain. We will be exploring the question 'Was the Roman invasion good or bad for Britain?' Children will learn about the Roman invasion of Britain, and its impact on the lives of the Celts. They will use a wide range of sources of evidence to investigate their learning question, including the Vindolanda Tablets and Hadrian's Wall.

Our **Geography** topic will be The Americas. We will be exploring the question 'Can you come on a Great American Road Trip?' Children will learn about the different environmental regions of North and South America and will learn about the key physical and human characteristics, countries, states and major cities. This will provide further opportunities for the children to use maps, atlases, globes and computer mapping, which they really enjoyed in Autumn term.

In **PSHE**, our topic is living in the wider world. We will learn about belonging to a community and will explore the different individuals and groups that help communities to thrive. We will also link to our work on online safety by exploring media literacy and digital resilience. Children will learn about their digital footprint and will learn how to keep themselves safe online. We will also learn about money and employment, and will explore ways in which people create budgets, keep track of money and pay for things.

In **RE** our topics will be 'What does it mean to be a Sikh in Britain?' and 'Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday?'. Children will explore the key beliefs of Sikhs and find out what matters most to the Sikh community, as well as learning about the lives of Sikhs in the Northeast. We will then move on to learning about the Christian Easter story.

In **Art**, we will be developing our painting and printing skills, using Roman mosaics as our inspiration, alongside studying the work of artists including Maurice Bennett and Isidora Paz López.

**PE** will continue to take place on Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure that your child has a PE kit, which they can leave in school. **IMPORTANT - In accordance with health and safety updated guidance, any form of earring should not be worn on P.E. days unless children are able to remove them and put them back in themselves.** If your child requires an inhaler, it is essential that they are in date and in school.

This term we are also continuing our **French** lessons. We will be learning how to introduce ourselves and inquire after each other. We will be learning to count, name countries and cities in the UK, and learn some of the grammatical features of the French language.

### Homework

Homework each week will contain spelling practice, times tables practice on TTR, reading comprehension work on Rising Stars and maths basic skills practise using either Mathletics or Numbots. Homework is written in the children's Learning Journals on a Friday, and it is expected that this work will be completed by the **following Thursday**. If there are any confusion or worries about homework, please let me know so I can help in any way possible. The children are given 15 minutes a day in school to access these online programs, and the ICT suite can also be accessed in breakfast club and at lunch times.

I look forward to seeing you on Open Evening on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Marc). However, if you have any queries or concerns before then, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always in the playground after school for quick questions or to arrange an appointment for anything that needs a longer chat.

Thank you for all the support you provided last term. I am looking forward to another exciting, busy term with such a wonderful group of children.

**Miss T Currington**  
**Class Teacher**



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