

Year 4 – Saint Thomas More – Autumn Term 2022 Topic Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the summer holiday. We would like to keep you informed about our topics, events and activities planned for Year 4 in the autumn term.



Literacy We will begin this year reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and Varjak Paw by S. F. Said studying plot, character development, changes of setting and making emotional responses to themes and events in narrative fiction. Our writing will include recounts (including diary entries), persuasive letters, poetry, reports, reviews and book trailers; and we will learn and apply the language of questioning and the use of metaphor. These stories deepen our understanding of the genres of poetry, science fiction and European fairy tales.



Maths We will cover a variety of core mathematical areas. The children will:

- Develop their understanding of place value of numbers in the 1000s, including rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. Solve number and practical problems with increasingly large positive numbers. Identify Roman numerals. Count backwards through zero to include negative numbers.
- Learn efficient methods to add and subtract numbers up to 4 digits, including exchange and decomposition to solve number and practical problems with increasingly large positive numbers. Focus on rapidly recalling known number facts and place value to add or subtract mentally.
- Measure and calculate the area of rectilinear shapes.
- Apply multiplication and division facts and use mental calculations in problem solving, and be encouraged to explain their reasoning.

You can support your child by helping them learn the multiplication tables up to 12x12 and the associated division facts.



R.E. Our topics this term are 'The Bible' and 'Trust in God'. We will be reflecting on God's calling to Abraham, Moses and Joseph, God's choosing of David how he speaks to us in the Bible. Through understanding the importance of trusting in God, we will reflect on how God fulfils his promises and the importance of the birth of Jesus for us.



Science In the first half of the term, through 'Teeth and the Digestive System' topic, we will be learning about the function and structure of our teeth and how to look after them, animal teeth, the workings of the human digestive system, healthy eating and food chains. In the second half of the term, we will be learning about 'Sound' - how sounds are created, travel and are received, reflected and absorbed, also pitch and volume.



Computing Every term we will revise internet safety, how technology should be used safely, respectfully and responsibly; how to recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour and identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact. Please take the opportunity to discuss internet safety with your child. This term, the children will learn about coding. Coding is what makes computer software, apps and websites work. Behind every animation or activity we use on computers, coding is the set of instructions that tell the computer what to do. The children will develop the skills to design, write and debug programs and to use logical reasoning to explain how simple algorithms work. Also this term, the children will be learning how to use the computer to organise and present their writing for different purposes and audiences.



P.E. The children will take part in a range of invasion ball games and gymnastics. Lessons are scheduled for Wednesdays and Thursdays. Currently, the children should wear their PE kit into school on those days.



Geography and History This term we will be studying the history of the Roman invasion and settlement in Britain. We will be learning about Roman home life, the public baths, life in the Roman army, the building of towns and roads, worship and the legacy left behind by the Romans and its effect on our lives today. We plan to have our own 'Roman Day' when we will dress up and take part in various Roman craft and drama activities.

We are planning to visit Lullingstone Roman Villa on Friday 30th September 2022 and this visit will include an archaeological workshop, led by staff from English Heritage.



Art and Design Technology Our art and DT projects will be cross curricular, linked to our English, History and Science themes, and will include designing and creating mosaics, sewing and weaving, growing edible plants and recreating a Roman recipe.



French We be finding out about France and other French speaking countries. Developing their vocabulary and conversational skills, the children will learn different French greetings, how to introduce themselves and family members and how to ask and respond to questions about themselves and their family. They will learn to describe their homes and where they live. They will also learn about the French alphabet, how to count up to 100 and words to describe colours.



Music The children will be singing and learning about rhythm and pulse through body music and playing on untuned instruments. They will be applying these skills to accompany their own and other poems. Later on they will be and learning songs and carols in preparation for Christmas.



Homework The children are expected to complete an English or topic based homework on Purple Mash, spellings/grammar (usually also on Purple Mash) and a maths task (usually My Maths) each week. Homework will be sent out on a Thursday, to be completed by the following Tuesday. All the children should be reading for at least 15 minutes, five times per week - this is the minimum expectation for Year 4, most children will be reading much more than this. Discussing your child's reading book with them, asking questions about characters, events or facts, improves their comprehension skills. Please sign your child's reading diary and make a note of how much time they are reading, as we will be running a 'Reader of the Week' award.

Special events



Visit to Lullingstone Roman Villa on Friday 30th September 2022.

We will be having a 'Romans Day' - the date for this will be confirmed later.

Class Mass at Our Lady of the Crays on Thursday 29th September 2022.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Christine Bunton

Year 4 Class Teacher