

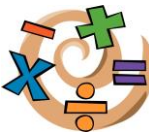
Year 4 - Saint Thomas More - Spring Term Topic Letter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back after the Christmas holiday. We would like to keep you informed about our topics, events and activities planned for the Spring Term.



Literacy Through the Power of Reading scheme, we will be reading 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Ballit, Varjak Paw by S. F. Said and African Tales - A Barefoot Collection by Gcina Mhlophe - studying plot, character development, changes of setting and making emotional responses to themes and events in narrative fiction. These stories deepen our understanding of the genres of historical drama based on true events and European and African myths and fairy tales. Our writing will include stories with historical reference, issues and dilemmas, recounts, diary entries, letters, poetry, reports, reviews and book trailers. We will be learning and applying the language of questioning and identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning.



Maths We will cover a variety of core mathematical areas. Consolidating knowledge of the 11 and 12 times tables. Multiplying and dividing 2 and 3 digit numbers. Identifying factor pairs and learning efficient written methods of multiplication and division. Calculating area of rectilinear shapes. Applying multiplication and division to calculating fractions and problem solving. Adding and subtracting fractions and calculating fractions of quantities. Recognising tenths and hundredths as decimals, applying multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. This term, there is great emphasis on mental calculation and 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 'Jesus the Teacher' to develop the children's understanding of Jesus's teachings and the parables and 'Jesus The Saviour' to know that Jesus came to share our life so that we can share his life and reflect on the events of Holy Week.

S.E.A.L. The 'Good to be me' theme is about understanding our feelings as well as considering our strengths and weaknesses as learners and 'Relationships' explores feelings within the context of our important relationships including family and friends.

R.S.E. Children will learn that similarities and differences between people arise as they grow and make choices, and that by living and working together ('teamwork') we create community;



Science In the first half of the term we will be learning about 'States of Matter- and the Water Cycle' comparing and grouping materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases, observing materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and identifying the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle. In the second half of the term will begin studying 'Living things and their habitat' and recognising that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. We will be learning that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways through exploring and using classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.



ICT Topics to be covered include more advanced use of graphical computer language, loops and 'IF' statements to create an interactive game. The purpose of computers, including a brief introduction to binary and how computers use it. This term includes 'Safer Internet Day' so please take the opportunity to discuss internet safety with your child.



those days.

P.E. The children will take part in a range of dance and games activities. In the first half of this term the children will be receiving cricket coaching. Lessons are scheduled for Wednesdays and Thursdays and PE kit should be worn into school on



Geography and History Through our topic work, we will be studying volcanoes and mountains - how they have formed and in particular the historical significance of the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79 in our understanding of Roman life.

We will also be visiting Lullingstone Roman Villa to further our understanding of Roman life in Britain.



making models of volcanoes and creating pop-up cards.

Art and Design Technology Our Art and DT projects will be cross curricular, linked to our English, Geography and Science themes, and will include sketching landscapes and creating collages in the style of known artists including Christina Ballit and creating African artwork inspired by the painter Edward Said Tingatinga. We will be



French The children will continue their learning of greetings, numbers, days of the week and the months of the year. This term they will be introduced to position vocabulary and naming classroom objects.



Music The children will be learning about rhythm and pulse through singing and body music and playing on untuned instruments. They will be applying these skills to draw and paint with music and create and compose music to accompany their own and other composers poems and rhymes.



Homework The children are expected to complete an English or topic based homework, spellings/grammar and a maths task (usually My Maths) each week. Homework will usually be sent out on a Thursday, to be completed and handed in by the following Wednesday. They should be reading for at least 15 minutes, five times per week - this is the minimum expectation, most children are reading much more than this. Discussing your child's reading book with them, checking their understanding of the glossary and asking questions about characters, events or facts, will improve their comprehension skills. Please sign your child's reading diary and make a note of how much time they are reading, as this will help us identify our 'Readers of the Week'.

Special events



We are planning to take the children to Lullingstone Roman Villa on Friday 18th March 2022; the details of this trip will be sent out later this term.

Year 4 will be attending Mass at Our Lady of the Crays on Thursday 27th January and Thursday 24th March 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