

Year 4 – Saint Thomas More - Autumn Term 2023

Topic Letter

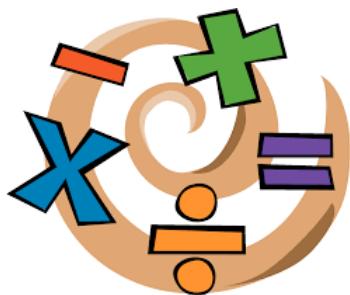
Dear Parents and guardians

Welcome to Year 4. Below is some information about the topics we will be covering in the Autumn term.



Literacy

The key text for the first half of the term is *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. While the key text for the second half of the term is *Varjak Paw* by S.F. Said. Alongside these stories we will be looking at other texts linked to our Topic, including the tale of Romulus and Remus. Developing the children's comprehension skills and inspiring us in our own writing.



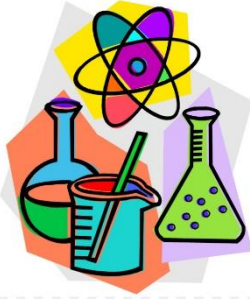
Maths

In Maths we will be developing our understanding of Place Value, identifying how numbers are formed, making comparisons and rounding. We will use our newly developed knowledge to support us in calculating additions, subtractions, multiplications and divisions. We will also be working on measuring and calculating areas.



R.E.

Our area of focus this term is the Bible. We will consider the stories of key Biblical figures from the Old testament including Abraham, Moses and Joseph. We will explore what we can learn from the lives of these people and how the Bible can act as instruction, example and encouragement.



Science

In the first half of the term we will be learning about teeth and digestion. We will learn the names for different teeth and how they serve different roles. We will compare the teeth of different animals and explore how these are linked to their diet. We will consider oral hygiene and how we can prevent tooth decay. In the second half of the term, we will be learning about sound. We will examine what sound is and explore how changes in vibrations lead to sounds being loud or quiet, high or low.



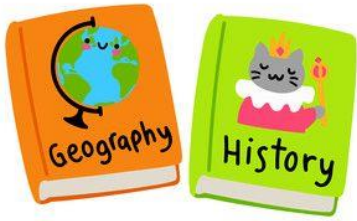
Computing

We will start each half term with lessons about online safety, an area of increasing importance for children in the modern world. Following this we will learn about coding. We will learn about the steps to designing creating and testing a code. The children will create instructions to accomplish different tasks, working towards the goal of making their own functioning Purple Mash game.



P.E.

In the first half of the term children will be working on invasion games. They will learn key skills used in many games such as football, rugby, basketball and hockey. With Coach the children will be learning handball. In the second half of the term the children will be doing gymnastics. Working on balance and creating shapes through positioning and movement. With Coach the children will continue to demonstrate invasion game skills through tag rugby.



History

In History we will be learning about the Ancient Romans. We will explore how the Empire started and then spread throughout the world, including Britain under Roman rule. We will consider the historical legacy of the Romans, identifying inventions and system created/introduced by the Romans, which can still be seen today.



Art and Design Technology

Our art this term is around the areas of 3D sculpture and print. Inspired by the work of artist Anthony Gormley the children will produce a piece linked to the book the Iron Man. Later in the term children will use the examples of Christmas jumpers to explore print through repeating patterns. In DT the children will be creating foods whilst considering dietary restrictions. The children will then create an item of clothing to be decorated with printed design in Art.



French

We will be learning the alphabet, numbers and colours in French. We will then start to look at describing ourselves and others, including ideas such as ages, the people in our family and basic descriptions.



Music

The children will be exploring rhythm and pulse, rounds, lyrics and melody, sound sources, music processes, performing alone and as part of a group.

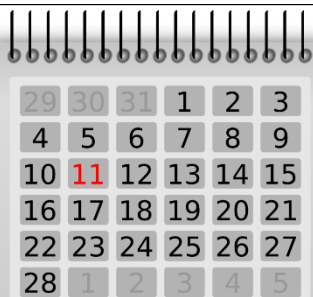
Homework



Each week homework tasks are set through Purple Mash and MyMaths. Maths tasks will be linked to areas covered in class. Homework on Purple Mash will often be based around spelling and grammar, including the spelling test practise lists. There are also weekly reading tasks set through Serial Mash (On Purple Mash).

Homework will be sent out on a Thursday, to be completed by the following Wednesday. Book change days are Tuesday and Thursday. The minimum expectation for children in Year 4 is that they are reading at least 5 times per week for sessions of 15 minutes. Many children should be reading more than this and I would encourage them to do so as reading will help children to develop literacy skills, including writing. Discussing your child's reading book with them, asking them to summarise what they have read, make predictions about what could happen next, describe characters, recall events or make inferences, will all help to improve their comprehension skills.

Please sign your child's reading diary and make a note of how much time they are reading.



Special events

28th September 2023 – Year 4 trip to Mass at Our Lady of the Crays Church.