

Year 4 – Saint Thomas More - Spring Term 2023

Topic Letter

Dear Parents, welcome back after the Christmas holiday. My name is Mr Oliveri and I am taking over from Mrs Bunton as the Year 4 class teacher.

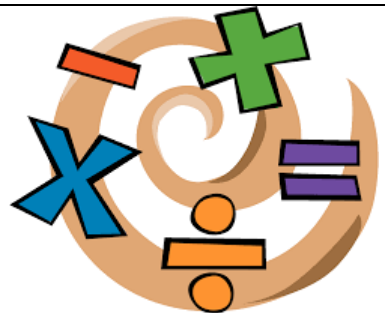
If you have any questions, concerns, or there is something you need to make me aware of please do not hesitate to contact me.

In this newsletter you will find some information on what we will be learning about and doing in the spring term.



Literacy

This term will be working on different texts including; The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo, Escape from Pompeii by Christina Ballit and African Tales – A Barefoot Collection by Gcina Mhlophe. We will be using these texts to explore different themes in writing and story-telling. We will also use them as the basis for our own writing, producing, recounts, letters, character studies, reports and poetry. We will practise our application of comprehension skills including inference and identify different techniques used by authors in their writing.



Maths

The children will continue to develop their knowledge of multiplication and division, looking at how to use the operations efficiently and how to multiply and divide numbers of increasingly greater values.

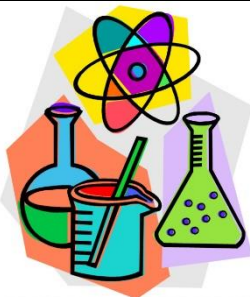
We will learn about area, identifying and using techniques to calculate the area of different shapes. We will look at how whole objects and groups can be split into fractions. We will move on to identifying equivalent fractions, and the links between fractions and decimals.

We will also develop our use of the four mathematical operations in problem solving. Identifying strategies that we can use to apply our maths knowledge to real world problems.



R.E.

Our area of focus this term is Jesus the Teacher and the Saviour. We will explore the life of Jesus to identify ways that his actions and words embodied these two different roles. We will reflect on the significance of Jesus' teachings and how they can be applied in our lives today.



Science

In the first half of the term we will be exploring the states of matter. We will be looking at solids, liquids and gases; what these terms mean scientifically and examples of each. We will perform experiments to demonstrate the differences; and also to examine ways that substances can be changed between the different states. In the second half of the term we will be focusing on the natural world. We will learn about habitats, food chains and how living things are classified.



Computing

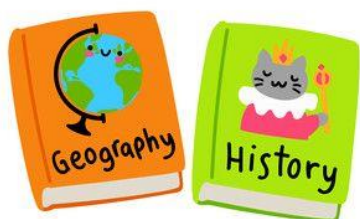
We will continue to have a termly revision of internet safety. Identifying how technology should be used in a responsible, safe and respectful way.

How to identify potential risk when we are online and how to voice our concerns about the things we might encounter to our adults. Please do take the opportunity to discuss your child's technology use with them guiding them on how to be safe and establishing expectations for their use of the internet. Outside of internet safety we will be learning about animation. We will identify the main methods used in animation and then look at how these can be achieved and sometimes improved using computing technology. The children will have the opportunity to create their own animations using a variety of methods, both analogue and digital.



P.E.

In the first half of the term the children will take part in a range of bat and ball games, including cricket and in the second half of the term dance. Lessons are scheduled for Wednesdays and Thursdays. Currently, the children should wear their PE kit into school on those days.



Geography and History

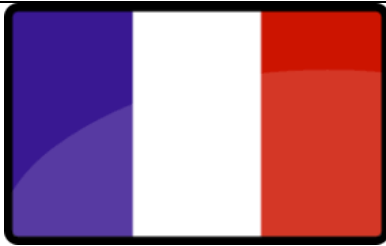
In geography we will be learning about mountains and volcanoes. We will look at how volcanoes are formed, the different types of volcanoes there are, what causes an eruption and what happens when a volcano erupts. In history we will link our new area of study in volcanoes,

with our previous history topic the Romans, learning about Pompeii, the ancient Roman city which was destroyed when the volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted.



Art and Design Technology

Our art and DT projects are cross curricular, linking to our English, History and Science topics. They will include creating collages of a volcanic eruption inspired by the story Escape from Pompeii, creating our own model volcanoes, Tinga pictures and making paintings that depict and use the different states of matter.



French

We will be learning the months of the year and recapping our knowledge of numbers to allow us to give the date in French. We will learn the days of the week and the words for different animals, including household pets.



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.

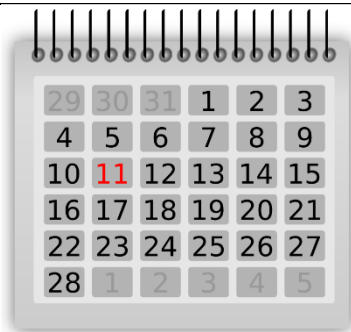


Homework

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 Wednesday. 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 the 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, to 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, as we will continue to run the 'Reader of the Week' award.



Special events

Chinese Dragon Workshop 16th January 2023

Class Mass at Our Lady of the Crays on Thursday 2nd February 2023

Other faiths week - Judaism

Book Week

Safer Internet Day