

Spring Term - Second Half
24.02.25 – 04.04.25

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Teachers: Mr McNicholas, Miss Walton & Mrs Slade

TAs: Mr Harris

Our Mission Statement

We would like to be recognised by the quality and depth of respect and love which we show towards each other. Mutual respect and tolerance are central to our way of life at St. Mary's as we meet Jesus Christ in each other.

We are looking forward to another busy half term in Year 4. They worked incredibly hard during the last half term and we are extremely proud of them.

Highlights of last half term include: the digestive system experiments, dragon descriptions, becoming times table superstars and performing gymnastic routines!

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 3rd March – PTA Soccer star challenge

Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday

Monday 10th March – Science week

Saturday 15th March – Cross country at Crystal Palace

Friday 28th March – Year 4 Mass at St Edmund's

Monday 31st March and Wednesday 2nd April – Parent's Evening



Religious Education

In our R.E. lessons we will be focusing on 'Jesus, The Saviour' and looking closer at the Bible stories where we see how Jesus protects and saves us. The children will know that Jesus came to share our lives so that we may share his life. They will know what happened in 'Holy Week' and will take part in some 'Holy Week' activities.

RSE

We will be continue to study the module 'Created to love others'. Created to Love Others explores the individual's relationship with others. Building on the understanding that we have been created out of love and for love, this module explores how we take this calling into our family, friendships and relationships, and teaches strategies for developing healthy relationships and keeping safe both online and in our daily lives.



Literacy

This half-term our work will be exploring a story of refugees through the book 'The Journey'. We will also continue to read a variety of fiction books as part of class readers, including some picture book based writing. We will use this wide variety of texts to help the children develop their language, grammar and writing across a range of genres such as diary entries, information reports, creative story writing and instruction writing.

Reading: Differentiated reading comprehension exercises will continue to develop comprehension skills such as retrieval, inference and deduction skills. We would encourage you to continue to listen to your child read and discuss what has been read on a daily basis. The children will continue to have opportunities to read in class where they will be able to develop their comprehension skills.

Spellings: This half term we will continue to send home weekly spellings to learn and practise. A number of those words will then be picked for the spelling test each Friday.

Handwriting: Children will continue to develop their penmanship by following the Kingston Cursive Handwriting Programme.

Grammar: Grammar lessons continue to form part of our Literacy timetable to develop understanding of varied sentence structure, punctuation and text development. Some homework may be set to recap these grammar skills at outside of lessons.



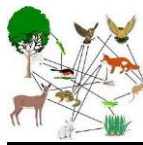
Mathematics

During our maths lessons we will continue to reinforce children's understanding of the number system and the skills of written and mental calculations.

Number and place value: Children will develop their knowledge and understanding of the place value system across all lessons (including learning about Roman Numerals) in order to be able to securely use all four operations (both as part of calculations and word problems).

Fractions and decimals: This half term, children will be looking at equivalent fractions and how to add & subtract to fractions. Children will study decimal numbers, focusing on tenths and hundredths. Children will round decimals to whole numbers and apply their understanding of decimal numbers in order to solve money problems later on.

Multiplication Tables Check Preparation: There will be regular opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and speed so that they become fluent in their multiplication tables. Please visit <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> so that your child can practise at home. It is very important that the children practise their tables **regularly** at home in readiness for the national multiplication check in the summer term. It is clear that many children are not yet confident in all times tables up to 12x12 – this must be a priority this term.



Science

The children will be exploring food webs and will also construct and interpret a variety of food chains. We will discuss and explore producers, predators and prey and their role in our ecosystem.

We will develop their 'working scientifically' skills through various investigative lessons and experiments.

Other Curriculum Areas

PE: PE kits should come into school on a Monday and be taken home on a Friday for washing. PE lessons will normally be on Wednesdays and Friday. We will be taking part in a Fitness programme, as well as learning football skills with Mr Verga.

Geography: We will be studying earthquakes and volcanoes. As part of this unit, the children will use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe the features studied.

Computing: In computing this half term the children will be using PurpleMash to learn coding skills, such as using coordinates, in order to create a simple computer programme.

DT: The children will design and create a torch. They will have the chance to investigate and analyse existing products, looking closely at features and functionality. They will then follow the design process of researching, designing, making and evaluating to make their own torch.

French: Our topic is called 'Vive le Sport'. Children will learn about different sports and express their opinions on them.

Useful information

1. Behaviour rewards: In Year 4, we praise children who display positive learning behaviours in a variety of ways.

4LM are rewarded with green ticks. If a child receives three green ticks, they will receive a raffle ticket which goes towards a prize. If a child is displaying negative behaviours, they will be given a verbal warning and this is followed by a red cross if the behaviour continues. When a child receives two red crosses, they will be given a time out in the other class to reflect and reset.

4KW are rewarded with marbles. They can earn marbles as a whole class or as an individual for the class. Once we fill our jar, we will have a treat. This treat will be chosen from a list that we put together as a class. If there are times when the class is not displaying the behaviour expected of them at St Mary's, they may lose marbles from the jar. We also have a trophy that the children can earn as a table, which is regularly moved around the classroom. Individual stickers are given out and we also celebrate a Star of the Day every day. Each day a child is chosen to be the Star of the Day. They are chosen based on their effort in class, their learning behaviour and their work. The Star of the Day is given a cushion to sit on and our French companion Serge stays with them for all of the following day.

In addition, every week we work towards one of our Core Values and children receive a certificate and recognition in our special assembly on a Friday.

2. Please follow the link to see our curriculum at a glance: <https://www.st-marys-catholic.bromley.sch.uk/curriculum/national-curriculum-at-a-glance>

3. Timetable – a copy of our usual timetable can be found below. Please bear in mind the timetable has to be flexible to account for everyday school events, for example: school trips, special celebration days, visitors, special group work.

Year 4 2024-25	8:40 - 8:50	8:50 - 9:00	9:00 – 9:25	9:25 – 10:10		10.30 – 11:30	11:30 – 12:30		1:25 – 2:10	2:10 – 2:45	2:45 – 3:05	After School
Monday			Maths		B	English	History / Geography	L	RE	Computing	Whole School assembly	
Tuesday			Class liturgy	RSE	R	Maths	Comprehension	U	Science			
Wednesday Yr 4 PPA am (Darren & PPA Co. Music)			Wednesday Word	Maths	E	PPA	PPA	N	English	RE		
Thursday			KS2 Hymn Practice	Maths	A	English	RE	C	Art / D&T			
Friday			English		K	Spelling	Maths	H	Change for PE	French	PE	Celebration Assembly
						Maths	Spelling		Change for PE	PE	French	

Pencil Case Equipment

Please ensure your child has a fully-equipped pencil case, including:

- Hand writing pen or fountain pen (including spare cartridges)
- Pencils / leads for mechanical pencils
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Rigid ruler, 30cm length
- Whiteboard pen
- Green fineliner (not biro) for editing

We are unable to provide these for the children.

Lastly

Please ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled as the cloakrooms are limited in space and quickly fill up with un-identifiable clothing.

Reminder about homework: Homework will be handed out on Thursday and due back in by the following Tuesday. We will also be checking Reading Journals – please remind your child of the guidance and activities in the front of their journal. Each child should aim to do at least one reading activity at home per week in their journal, even if this is simply recording what they have read.

Please read together daily and discuss what is read – this does not have to be fiction.

Some useful websites: www.ictgames.co.uk , www.topmarks.co.uk , <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/>, www.nrichmaths.org and the bbc learning websites.

We trust you find this information useful. Thank you from the Year 4 Team.