



**Autumn Term - Second  
Half  
04.11.24-20.12.24**

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

**Teachers:** Mr McNicholas, Miss Walton & Mrs Slade

**TA:** Mrs Clarkson & Miss Peto (ISA)

### **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.

*WELCOME: We would like to welcome you to our Curriculum Newsletter which will outline the main areas of learning for your children over the next part of the term. The newsletter is designed to give you clear information about the subject areas we will be covering and also to give you an indication of how you can support your child's learning. If you have any further queries please contact your child's teacher via the usual communication channels.*

### **Dates for your Diary:**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November:** School reopens for pupils

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November:** School photographer- individual photos

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November:** Parents' Evening

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** Home Clothes day for Elfridges

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November:** Home Clothes day for bottle stall

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** Christmas Fair

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 29<sup>th</sup> November:** Year 4 Forest School

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** KS2 Carol Service at St Edmund's

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Dinner Day

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** End of term Mass (9.10am), School closes for pupils (2pm)

## Religious Education

In our R.E. lessons we will be focusing on 'Trusting in God' and looking closer at the Bible stories that show this in action.

## RSE

This half term we will be focusing on how God created us and loves us all. **We will explore how God made us all individual and unique.** This topic will teach the children that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Through this unit the children will develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships.

## Literacy

We will be completing a unit of poetry based on the work of Benjamin Zephaniah. We will also complete a unit of work based on Neil Gaiman's *Odd* and the Frost Giants.

**Reading:** Weekly whole class reading sessions will continue to develop comprehension skills. We would encourage you to continue to listen to your child read and discuss what has been read.

**Spellings:** Spelling sounds/rules are integrated into the weekly timetable in a weekly spelling lesson. Each week the children have a spelling test based on spellings sent home with their homework on a Thursday for a test the following Friday.

**Grammar:** Specific grammar lessons continue to form part of our Literacy timetable, embedded into the learning around our texts, to develop understanding of varied sentence structure, punctuation and text development. The National Curriculum requires teaching and use of formal grammatical terms, for example 'conjunctions' rather than 'connectives', 'fronted adverbials' rather than 'sentence openers' and multi-clause sentences.

**Fiction and Creative Writing:** We will be developing our creative writing and we will learn how to produce a range of different texts.

**Homework:** Children will be set Literacy homework each Thursday to be handed in on Tuesday. This will consist of spelling to learn and a piece of homework either focused on grammar, comprehension or punctuation.

## Mathematics

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

**Multiplication and Division:** Children will be expected to recall number facts (multiplication and division) up to and including the 12 times table. We will be looking at mental calculations as well as formal written methods.

**Measure:** Children will read, write and convert time between digital and analogue clocks. They will also convert between seconds, minutes and hours. Children will then be able to measure length including calculating perimeter in centimetres and metres.

**Cross Curricular Maths:** Where possible we will link mathematics to other subjects including our topic work.

**Mental Mathematics:** There will be weekly Mental Maths Assessments which will cover all aspects of the curriculum and are modelled on the end of Key Stage 2 Assessments.

**Multiplication Tables Check Preparation:** There will be regular opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and speed so that they are ready for the new statutory assessment in the summer term. Please visit the link below <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/> so that you can conduct practise tests with your child at home.

## Science

**This half term we will be focussing on biology through our topic "Living Things and their Habitats" - Children will learn to:**

Identify the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates

Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways

Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment

Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey

## Other Curriculum Areas

**PE:** Our PE lessons will be on a Friday with the Class Teacher and Wednesday with Mr Verga our specialist PE Coach, so please ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit.

**Geography:** Our main topic for the term will be the River and Mountains – we will be researching different rivers as well as how they are formed. We will also look at different mountains and understand how they are made.

**DT:** Our DT sessions will focus on creating a healthy and balanced meal. We will be learning different food technology skills and the children will be required to bring in ingredients for their final projects. We will give all the information about this closer to the time and the ingredients you may need to provide.

**French:** Our topic 'l'argent de poche' focuses on pocket money.

**Computing:** Children will be continuing to use Purple Mash to complete all computing lessons, therefore they must know their login and be able to log in independently. We will be learning how to use spreadsheets to present and formulate data as well as how to use technology to present information in a variety of ways.

### **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. As well as this, individual stickers and positive praise are given to children.

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.

**Lastly**

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

Also please could you ensure that your child's pencil case is completely restocked. This includes, glue sticks, pencils, Berol handwriting pens and green pens for editing. Thank you.

**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 on Thursdays to ensure they are using them, though should come into school each day and go home each night as they need them for their Guided Reading sessions and to complete reading activities at home. 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.

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

As always we trust you find this information useful and welcome your feedback and comments.

Thank you,

Team Year 4