



Welcome Back

Welcome back! We had a lovely first half term in Year 4, and the children have all settled into class beautifully.

R.E.

We have started our second topic of the term, 'Called', in which we will be thinking about the actions and symbols used in confirmation. We will be learning how and why different people respond to God's call. This 'Knowledge Organiser' can also be accessed on this class webpage. This term, we will be learning about an aspect of the Jewish faith. In Year 4, we will be learning about the Torah and the special pointer, called a Yad.

Following our Jewish Faith week, our third R.E. topic this year is called 'Gift', in which we will learn all about the significance of Advent and how it is a time to remember God's promise to send a Messiah. We learn about the symbolism of the Advent Wreath and study Matthew 2: 1-18, considering that the Wise Men also came to visit Jesus even though they were not Jewish, *showing that God's love is for everyone*. This Knowledge Organiser can also be accessed on the class webpage.

Prayer and worship remain an integral part of each day and the children are very welcome to bring in and share any prayers or books for our class prayer table.

English

Writing: Following our poetry topic, focusing on metaphors and similes last half term, we are currently finishing an exciting topic on 'suspense writing'. This is linked to our current class story, Pokin One Ear. Children will use this to identify how the author uses a toolkit of 'writer's tricks' to build suspense. The children will be creating their own short stories, building a suspenseful atmosphere for their audience.

Upon completion of this, we will begin our new topic - which ties in nicely with our history - creating a tourist guide to Ancient Egypt. Over the course of the topic, the children will learn about appropriate layout, rhetorical

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question to hook the reader, conjunctive adverbs to link our arguments or statements together and use of generalisers.

Spelling: We are continuing with our Read, Write, Inc spellings, with three fifteen-minute spelling lessons per week. Assessment throughout each unit is ongoing, and each week children will log 6 words that they have found difficult in their 'Spelling Logs'. It is important to note that these words are personalised to each child, and therefore there is no 'set' spelling list each week.

Reading: Firstly, thank you for your continued support with the children's reading across the years - it is greatly appreciated! In Year 4, the children's reading is coming along wonderfully, and we are really noticing the impact of home reading! As a reminder, the children should continue to utilize their reading bookmarks at home, on which they are to write down any words that they are unfamiliar with or have struggled to pronounce. Your child is expected to bring their home reading book into school once a week, on a set day (which the children are aware of). This is so that teachers and teaching assistants can listen to them read and track progress. If your child fails to bring their book two weeks in a row, you will receive a letter making you aware of this.

In our Talk for Reading sessions this half term, we will be covering extracts, lyrics and videos from texts such as The Bonfire at Night, The Legend of Podkin One Ear, Voices in the Park, Secrets of a Sun King, Electricity and John Lewis's Edgar the Dragon advert.

Maths

In Maths this half term, having completed our unit on addition and subtraction, we are now working on Measurement of Perimeter. This will be followed by Multiplication and Division.

Daily practice on Arithmagicians and Times Tables Rockstars will help the children greatly and they can also practice on the Multiplication Check at home too.

In Year 4, as we continue to prepare for the 'Multiplication Check', a statutory assessment which takes place in May, the children regularly practice on the Multiplication Check within class. There is a link to the MTC, which the children will be using in school, on our class webpage.

P.E.

The children will have two P.E. lessons each week. This half term, our P.E days will be **Tuesdays** and

Wednesdays. We will be continuing with our swimming sessions on Tuesdays and on Wednesdays, the focus of the sessions for the children will be football. As previously, children are to come to school in their active uniform on these days. Outdoor kit should include plain black tracksuit bottoms, yellow polo shirt, yellow sweatshirt and outdoor trainers. Please ensure all items are fully labelled! For convenience, I politely ask that long hair be tied back, and earrings removed on P.E. days. Whilst we advise against it, if your child's earrings are new and unable to be taken out, they must be taped over with surgical tape, brought in from home. However, earrings cannot be taped over for swimming, as the tape clogs the filters and is therefore not allowed by the swimming baths.

Brass Lessons

For music, Year 4 will be continuing with our brass lessons from a qualified brass instructor. These will fall on a Friday afternoon, so please ensure that the children bring their instruments in on Thursdays, ready for our lessons.

Children are expected to practice their instruments at home to support their progress.

Foundation Subjects

To see a breakdown of our foundation subjects (History, Geography, Art, D&T, RSHE, P.E, Spanish & Computing) please see the curriculum overview on our class webpage.

Homework

In Year 4, homework will be set every Monday, due to be returned the following Monday. Homework will be sent home in their personalised homework journal. Alternatively, overarching homework projects may be set. These will span over a few weeks/a half term and details of each project will be sent home in plenty of time.

Twitter

As a reminder, our class Twitter page is @StLizClass20. If your Twitter handle is not obvious (does not contain your name) please send a note in to school and I will be sure to accept your request.

Water Bottles

Please make sure that children are sent into school with a refillable water bottle each day. In Year 4, the children are encouraged to keep water bottles next to them in lessons.

School Trip

We are so excited for our residential to Lea Green Thursday 27th – Friday 28th February. We also have our class trip to Derby's Museum and Art Gallery on Thursday 1st May.

Linking to our current history topic, the day will begin with a 'Secrets of the Mummies' session, where the children will see a real mummified person, learn about artefacts within the museum and create their own scarab beetles to bring home. This will then be followed by an exploration of the Museum and Art Gallery, revisiting topics from previous years, including habitats and Sir Joseph Wright.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to us at the end of the school day once all of the children have been dismissed. If, at that point, you feel you require a longer appointment, we can arrange a meeting via the school office (01773 822278). We are really looking forward to an exciting term and a fun-filled year!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Miss Hickling & Mrs Baker

