



**Sacred Heart**  
**Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter**  
**Autumn Term 2021**  
**Ancient Greece**

Welcome back!

In this termly newsletter, there will be: important class information, an outline of the topics we are covering this term and details concerning school routines.

**Class Information**

- Miss Lucy Prain is the Year 4 class teacher.
- She is supported by two teaching and learning assistants: Mrs Chamiec and Mrs Saratowicz.
- Mrs Chamiec is in class on Monday morning, Tuesday morning, Wednesday morning, Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.
- Mrs Saratowicz is in class every day.
- On Wednesday afternoons, the children will have a Music lesson with Mrs Fogg; a French lesson with Mrs Coney and a PSHE lesson with Mrs Dell'Anno.
- On Thursday afternoons, the children will have a Computing lesson with Junior Jam.
- The start of the day is a busy time preparing for lessons so we ask that appointments be made for a convenient time after school. We will try to respond to emails received within 48 hrs. If urgent please notify the office. Miss Prain's email address is [lprain@sacredheart.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:lprain@sacredheart.richmond.sch.uk).

**Covid-19 Routines and Practices**

There is a Risk Assessment detailing all the measures currently in place but rest assured every precaution is being taken to ensure that children are learning in a safe environment.

- Tables are disinfected at the end of every session and children are washing their hands at the beginning and end of every lesson.
- Children are all sat at forward-facing tables with regular socially-distanced movements breaks.
- Any activities are done within the KS2 bubble and the children are not mixing with other year groups.
- Assemblies are being held remotely.

**School Routines and Equipment**

- Please do ensure the school office have up-to-date medical information for your child and up-to-date contact details for you, as parents.
- Year 4 need to enter the building in the morning via the church side gate and through the side door from 8:45am to 9:00am. They will exit the building via the same door at 3:20pm.
- Routines have been set regarding handwashing, sanitising and cleaning of equipment and tables etc. The children have been fantastic with these and we appreciate your support with this.
- All children are encouraged to bring in a small pack of tissues and hand sanitiser.
- All children need a named water bottle and a healthy snack for playtime. This should be either a piece of fruit or fruit bar (no nuts/crisps/chocolate).
- Items of jewellery should not be worn in school and all those with pierced ears must remove earrings for P.E./Games lessons on **Tuesdays and Fridays**.
- Hair reaching shoulder length should always be tied back.

- The children have PE every **Tuesday and Friday** and should come to school wearing their PE kit. Their indoor PE kit consists of a Sacred Heart Maroon T-shirt, navy blue school shorts or skort, white socks and trainers. They should also have the outdoor PE kit. All PE will be outdoors for at least the first half term so the children should always wear trainers.
- The children should also have a Sacred Heart Tracksuit.
- We are currently delivering all PE lessons outdoors and our intention is to do this for as long as possible. We will inform you if and when this is likely to change to indoor PE, as plimsolls will then be required.

## **Home Learning**

Children will receive English and Maths home learning every week. They will also get occasional Home Learning linked to RE or Learning Themes.

Home Learning information will be included in my weekly email and most resources will be sent home in Home Learning Folders.

Every child has a Google Classroom account that may be used for communicating about Home Learning. Information and resources may be posted on Google Classroom and children should log onto their accounts, if requested. With your help, children can communicate with me on Google Classroom if there are any questions.

Home Learning will be assigned on a Friday and should be handed in by the following Tuesday.

If you have any problems with accessing your child's Google Classroom account, please email me.

## **English Home Learning:**

### **Spellings**

- Every week a list of spellings to learn and sentences to complete will be set.
- The children will be tested on these spellings on a Friday.
- The spellings will be noted down in the children's spelling journals at the beginning of each week. They will then complete activities on these spelling throughout that week.

### **Comprehension and grammar**

Comprehension and Grammar and Punctuation Workbooks will be given out on **alternate weeks**. These will be given out on a Friday be returned for the following **Tuesday**.

### **Reading Journals**

- Reading with your child is important, so please take the time to hear your child read and talk to them about the books they are reading. They should read for about twenty minutes daily.
- Your child should write down the pages they have read at home and whilst at school
- In addition, we would ask that you sign your child's journal at least once a week.
- It is important that we encourage the children to read fluently and that they fully comprehend what they are reading.

We are currently updating our reading scheme selection so that the children can have more independence and responsibility over their reading. Please bear with us as we finalise this system.

We are also in the process of re-opening our library system. Until then, the children will take a book from the Year 4 book corner home on a Friday to encourage reading for pleasure over the weekend. These books should be returned on Monday.

### **Maths Home Learning:**

Maths home learning is set each Friday and should be handed in the following Tuesday and will comprise of mathematics books, or relevant practise sheets and online activities such as Mathletics or My Maths.

As with the English work, these will be given out on alternate weeks. One week will consist of maths books while the following week will be an online activity.

If you have misplaced the login for either the Mathletics or My Maths website please e-mail us to request another copy.

### **Curriculum**

#### **Catch-up Curriculum**

As a school, our aim is to ensure that our pupils have a broad and balanced education, while ensuring that they catch-up on the fundamental skills in English and Mathematics missed during any disruption to learning over the last two years.

English, and in particular reading, underpins our understanding of everything we are asked to learn within school. If we cannot understand the information that is being presented to us, either orally or in written form, we cannot hope to move forward with completing the tasks/learning challenges being set.

As we move through this first part of the Autumn Term, the curriculum will be heavily focused on getting the basics right. We will focus on reading and the skills for reading and comprehension, as well as, the basics for writing – Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation – these are non-negotiables for each year group and build systematically across the school. Through our GSP focus, we will look to enthuse the children with a love of language which they will be encouraged to transfer into their writing.

With Mathematics, we will continue to follow the White Rose curriculum, as this has been found to be systematic and effective in building pupils understanding. As a support to schools, White Rose have provided a recovery plan for each year group which we will be using to ensure that any gaps in learning are addressed.

## **English**

This term we will be looking at:

### **Fiction**

#### **The Adventures of Odysseus**

- Fantasy and Imaginative Stories
- Play scripts

### **Non-fiction**

- Instructions and explanations
- Information texts

Our learning across the curriculum will also inspire writing tasks in Year 4.

### **Skills**

- Y3 – 4 spelling list
- Revision of nouns and adjectives
- Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail
- Apostrophes for contraction and possession
- Selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, and understand how such choices can change and enhance meaning
- Use of prefixes and suffixes
- Use of conjunctions
- Modal verbs

## **Maths**

We are incorporating the Maths Mastery philosophy into our teaching of Mathematics. The basis of this is that every child should enjoy and succeed in Maths. By using accessible activities that promote number fluency and consolidating understanding with reasoning and problem-solving activities, knowledge of Maths is contextualised and rich rather than instrumental.

This term we will be learning about:

- Number and place value (up to 4 digits)
- Mental addition and subtraction
- Formal written addition and subtraction methods
- Mental and written multiplication and division
- Times table focus

## **Religious Education**

The children will be following the 'Come and See' religious scheme of work. During our lessons, children will explore each theme through a combination of discussion, written work, reflection and prayer. Over the Autumn Term the children will cover three topics.

Family: The Family of God in Scripture - Jesus has a natural family with real people with names and a history.

Belonging: Through Baptism and Confirmation people are given the gift of the Holy Spirit and are called to respond in their lives.

Loving: God's gift of Jesus is a gift of love to all people of all time. Jesus reveals God's love for humanity and the possibility of friendship. This gift is celebrated each Christmas. During the season of Advent we explore the gift of love and the promise of Jesus' return at the end of time.

## **Science**

We will be studying two topics: 'States of Matter' and 'Electricity'

### **States of Matter**

In this topic, the children will:

- Compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.
- Observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C).
- Identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

### **Electricity**

In this topic the children will:

- Identify common appliances that run on electricity.
- Construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers
- Identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery
- Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit
- Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors

We will explore and consolidate these concepts using a range of scientific skills including: classification, scientific research, comparative observation, making predictions and simple fair testing. Children will further demonstrate their understanding, using the appropriate scientific terminology.

The children are also encouraged to be curious, inquisitive and to ask questions. We will reflect on how our answers to scientific enquiries can have different answers.

## **Learning Themes**

### **History**

This term we will be looking at the Ancient Greeks; we will look at different aspects of Ancient Greece and the impact they had on the modern world.

### **Computing**

This term, we will develop our digital literacy by looking at how computers work. Children will become familiar with the different parts of a computer and how to use each of them so that they can begin to use computers safely and independently.

Children will also be visited by Junior Jam every week. They will experience computing games and applications using the school iPads.

### **Art and Design and Technology**

We are focusing on sketching and drawing, creating Greek Theatre Masks and pop-up Christmas cards.

### **Music**

Mrs Fogg is the specialist Music Teacher. She teaches the children during weekly Music lessons.

### **PSCHE**

#### **Zones**

In addition to readjusting to our school rules and expectations, the children will recap and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the Zones of Regulation. This will include: identifying our zones; developing self-regulating strategies; using clue to determine how others are feeling and reviewing expected and unexpected behaviours.

### **RSE**

It is now a statutory requirement to include Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) lessons as part of the PSHE curriculum. After half term, we will explore more about how we are created and loved by God. Where possible, we will relate this learning to our RE and Science lessons too.

### **PE**

The children will participate in a variety of activities which will allow them to develop their fitness and spatial awareness. This term the focus will be on hockey and fitness activities.

### **French**

Mrs Coney will teach French during the weekly lesson.

### **Trips and Enrichment**

The Government has advised that, in the autumn term, schools can resume non-overnight domestic educational visits. This includes any trips or placements connected with a pupil or student's preparation for adulthood (for example workplace visits, travel training, etc.).

At this time, a number of the planned educational visits have been cancelled by the providers as a result of their own risk assessments. In light of this, the school has taken the decision not to commence with educational visits until after the Autumn half term break and at this time, where trips are organised, these will be in line with protective measures, such as keeping children within their consistent group, and the coronavirus (COVID-19) secure measures in place at the destination.

The school is supported in its decision making around educational visits by an Educational Visits Adviser from our Health and Safety executive. The school makes use of this adviser to evaluate trips and the individual risk assessment for these trips.

Please be assured that as a school, we will do all we can to ensure your child receives as enriched a curriculum as feasible in the current climate.

### **ADDITIONAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Parents Evenings: Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> November

- Please note: we will be sending out a survey in relation to how these will be held.

Sacred Heart Open Events: Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Concerts and Nativities: Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> December

**These dates are provisional and may be subject to change, postponement or cancellation. The dates will be finalised towards the end of this half term.**

The children have made a fantastic start to Year 4! They have adapted to new routines and expectations beautifully. Thank you so much for your continued support and understanding. I am really looking forward to a successful year working with your amazing children.

If you have any questions or any concerns regarding your child's well-being, please do not hesitate to contact me. As we are social distancing as much as possible at the start and end of each day, please email me [lpain@sacredheart.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:lpain@sacredheart.richmond.sch.uk).

Many thanks,  
Miss Lucy Prain