



Ely St Mary's Year 4 Spring 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. The Year 4 team have some exciting activities planned during the Spring term. This newsletter will enable you to find out about any changes to the routines of the school day and week; reading books, spelling and homework; and the main topic areas for the spring term.

The school day/week

Children will continue to come into school via the top playground from 8:50am where their teacher will be waiting in class ready with morning work before registration at 9:00am. There will be a final bell at this time, after which children will be marked as late. Children will be walked out from classrooms at 3:20pm each afternoon by their teacher where they make their way to you on the top playground once again. Break times have changed this term to allow for a more balanced timetable in the mornings. For lower school, break time is 10:35 – 10:50. Lunchtime remains as 11:55-12:55.

P.E. will take place on Wednesday mornings for the whole of Year 4 and will be run by professional sports coaches. Please ensure your child has their full PE kit with them for these sessions. Tracksuits are advised for the outdoor sessions.

In addition to their P.E. kits, children will need to remember to bring in their reading books every day. Children have the opportunity to read with an adult on a regular basis, either during guided reading or during one-to-one reading sessions.

Each week, the Year 4 teachers (**Mrs Gilpin-Davies 4E, Mrs Raven 4S, Mrs Wyatt 4T and Mrs Mason 4M**) will be available in their classrooms between 3:20 and 3:50 on Wednesday afternoons. Please feel free to drop in at these times if you have any concerns or questions, signing in at the Office.

Reading books, spelling and homework/home learning

Children are given time during the school day to read and talk about their books. Guided reading and one-to-one reading sessions give an opportunity for us to share our love of reading and to discuss books in detail. Children also take regular comprehension quizzes, checking their understanding of what they have read.

Spellings are set on Spelling Shed once a week. The children were all reassessed on their spelling levels before Christmas and their Spelling Shed groups have been adjusted. Children are given time in class to access Spelling Shed and log-in details were sent home at the beginning of the year.

Times Tables are an important focus for Year 4 this year and the children will take part in a statutory times tables check in June – more information to follow soon. Your child has access to TT Rockstars and Tackling Tables Online, which both support times tables fluency. Times tables are taught regularly in maths lessons, where children are challenged to

beat their best score in our Tackling Tables challenge. All children also take part in a times tables challenge at the end of each day, where they attempt to accurately complete a times tables grid in just one minute. If you would like any advice or support around learning times tables, please speak to your class teacher.

Read at home

We believe that reading is the key to unlocking learning. As well as our guided reading sessions, we read a class text every day. Your help at home is very important and we appreciate any time you can give to reading with your child and discussing their books. We are lucky to have a fantastic selection of books in our school library and all staff at Ely St Mary's read a variety of children's books themselves. We are always happy to recommend books which we have enjoyed.

Year 4 Spring Term: The Roman Invasion! Mysteries. The Maya People.

This term we begin by teaching the children about the Romans and their attempts to invade Britain. We then go on to look at the history of the Maya people.

English

The Roman myth of Romulus and Remus will be our first English topic. The children will have the opportunity to develop their very own stories based on Roman myths. We will then be developing our diary writing skills, looking at some of the events surrounding the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Our History topic provides lots of opportunities for cross-curricular writing, including reports of Roman invasions.

Maths

In our Maths Mastery approach, we aim to meet the National Curriculum objectives of fluency in the fundamentals of mathematics, the ability to reason mathematically, and the ability to solve problems using their mathematical knowledge and skills. Times tables will be a priority for Year 4 this term but the children will also be investigating fractions and recapping written calculation methods.

Science

Our focus for the first half term is on sound and vibrations. There are lots of opportunities for children to work scientifically, planning and carrying out their own investigations. We are also looking forward to Science Week, where the children will have the opportunity to speak to scientists and take part in a range exciting activities.

Other subjects

In music lessons this half term, we will be learning to play the recorder. We are also excited about our art project, where we will be designing and making our own Roman mosaic. In RE, will be discussing the gospels and reflecting on the kind of world that Jesus wanted.

We look forward to a successful, happy term!

Mrs Gilpin-Davies and the Year 4 Team