



Ely St Mary's Year 4 Autumn 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. We hope you have all enjoyed a restful summer. The new team in Year 4 are looking forward to getting started on what will be a super year at St Mary's. 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 autumn term.

The school day/week

Children will 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. For lower school, break time is 10:45 – 11:00 and lunchtime is 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. As the weather turns cooler, 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, as well as their reading logs; these are key for us to see how much reading the children are doing at home and for you to be an active part of their journey as a reader.

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

Over the first few weeks, we will be working to ensure that your child gets an appropriate reading book and spelling practice/homework as soon as possible, but this can only happen once we have completed our assessments. Accordingly, spelling and home learning should start at the end of the first full week of term; reading books should also be available by the end of first full week of term as we are keen to get the children back into routine. Once these things are up and running, children can expect to receive one set of spellings to practise per week. Times tables will also be a focus and the children have been given log-in details to access TTRockstars and Tackling Tables Online to support them in this.

Read at home

We believe that reading is the key to unlocking learning. With this in mind, we will hope to see the children getting through at least two books in a week. We will be running regular guided reading sessions as well as enjoying whole class texts, however your help at home is very important. Please use the reading log to let us know you have read with your child or if they have read independently, discussing the story with you afterwards.

Year 4 Autumn Term: Trash or Treasure?

One man's trash is another man's treasure! This term we begin by teaching the children about the need to *reduce, reuse and recycle*. We have woven this theme into many areas of the curriculum for autumn term and will be receiving a visit from Amey Recycling who will talk to the children about recycling in our area.

English

The story of *The Paperbag Prince* will be the focus for our first English unit. The children will be writing narrative stories based on the text and build up to writing their own story in a different abandoned setting. We focus on writing at length in the first three weeks of term to build up the children's writing stamina. After this we move on to writing a persuasive leaflet to convince the community to **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!**

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. In the first half term, our focus is on reasoning skills. We will also be polishing the times table knowledge the children have built up in Year 3.

Science

Our focus for the first half term is on Human Impact. We consider the pros and cons of human impact on our natural environment. This leads on to the children working scientifically to plan and carry out their own litter survey in our local area.

Other subjects

Using the programming system Scratch, we will become software designers and design and debug programmes during Computing sessions. With close, careful observation, we will be applying the skills of sketching junk in our Art unit on still life. For our R.E. unit on Christianity we will be learning about the creation story. We will be preparing and making our very own rag rugs in D&T sessions, fitting in with our Trash or Treasure theme. Music lessons will focus on exploring rhythmic patterns.

We look forward to a successful, happy term!

Mrs Gilpin-Davies and the Year 4 Team

New reading books, spelling lists and log-ins to online resources will all be sent out by the children's class teacher by Friday 20th September at the latest, along with a Learning Log. This will enable us to carry out baseline assessments to pitch these resources correctly. If these have not been received by this date, please get in touch.