# St Therese of Lisieux Welcome to Class 8 Autumn Term

Welcome to Class 8! We have already had a great start to the new school year, with the children settling and producing some great work. This is the first Class 8 newsletter, which will tell you all about what we are going to be doing in our class this year.

**Maths**Maths work is divided into topics which last for three or four week. The first topic that we will be looking at is ‘Place Value’. This topic will focus on understanding what each part of a number represents. As we are in Year 4, we will be moving on to look at numbers in the thousands. We will try to order, partition, round and represent these numbers in different ways. The second topic that we will look at is ‘Addition and Subtraction’. This will involve lots of practise to ensure that the children can add and subtract confidently.

We will be introducing reasoning problems for each topic, which will require the children to apply their learning and explain how they reach an answer.

**English**   
**Writing -** This term we will start by describing a setting and writing an alternative ending from the book, ‘The Dragon’s Hoard’. We will be learning about how to add details using adjectives, prepositions, verbs and adverbs. We will write Kenning poems about objects and nature and understand vocabulary from the text, Beowulf. We will also be looking at Black History month, focussing on the lives of some very important people who have helped to shape our world and create posters using persuasive language. Before the half term break, we will focus on writing a diary entry using our class reader, James and the Giant Peach.   
**Reading –** Reading is a big part of our curriculum and we will be continuing to enjoy a variety of texts. Each writing topic will include an example text, which will help us with our learning. We will look at texts linked to our History topic on the Vikings such as, ‘The Dragon’s Hoard’ and the Vicious Vikings. Our class novel this term is James and the Giant Peach and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. We will also read texts on Rosa Parks, newspaper articles and the Christmas Story.

**Music**

We are currently learning to sing Frozen in Norwegian for International Music Day. Mamma Mia’ by Abba. We are really enjoying singing and we are beginning to compose music to go with the song. In our lessons, we will talk about the pulse of the music, rhythm and musical notation.

**PE**

For the first half term, we have Mr Bowman coming in to deliver Basketball skills and Tag Rugby. PE lessons are on a Tuesday morning and a Wednesday afternoon. We only need to bring our kit in to school on the days we have PE.

**Science**

Our topic for science this term is ‘Animals Including Humans’. We will look at how both animals and humans have teeth that are used for a specific purpose. We will move on to see how our stomachs help us to digest food. In our lessons, we will try to work practically and learn all about scientific enquiry.  
The second topic that we will look at ‘States of Matter’. We will try to classify materials into solids, liquids and gasses.

**History and Geography**

Our History and Geography topic this term is the ‘Vicious Vikings’. In History we will be looking at exciting parts of Viking life, such as the clothes they wore, the weapons they carried and the way that they used to travel. We are going to try to understand when the Vikings used to live and when their rule ended. In Geography, we will be using maps to see where the Vikings came from. We will look at the paths that they sailed in their boats and try to think about why they felt the need to leave Scandinavia to invade other places.

**D&T**Design and Technology work will also be linked to our Vikings topic. We will be designing and making a pair of shoes that a Viking could use. We are going to have to think about what type of material would be suitable and the tools that we are going to have to use.

**Homework**

We appreciate your support with homework this year. The homework is designed to challenge the children and help them with their learning in class. Should you be struggling with any homework, don’t hesitate to ask for help from school.

**Times tables -** Given out on a Monday and tested on a Friday (to be practised 4 times)

**Spellings -** Given out on a Monday and tested on a Friday (to be practised 3 times and written in sentences once)

**Grammar or Maths -** Given out on a Wednesday to be retuned the following Wednesday.

**Reading** is not homework and the children should enjoy reading both on their own and with an adult. We ask that the children try to read for 10 minutes every night. This could be their school reading book, or their own book that they are enjoying reading.

**Art**

In Art we will be using our Vikings topic as inspiration. We are looking at the work of Georgina Westley as an inspiration but giving it a Vikings twist. Her artwork is based on lines and blocks of colour, so we will be creating pictures of a Viking invasion in that style. We will imagine the land that the Vikings would have viewed from their boats just before an invasion.

We will practise controlling a pencil carefully and soft/hard shading.

**Computing**

In Computing this term, we will be looking at reading and creating sports reports from the internet. We will then be using iPad apps to design and make a city. We are going to use Minecraft Education, Blokify and Home Design to try to make buildings. We will put all our designs together to make our very own city.

It is important to remember how to keep safe when using technology, so we will learn about how to use computers responsibly and how to communicate online safely.

**RE**

Religious Education will take several different forms this year – such as writing art and music - to ensure that the children continue to learn and grow spiritually. Lessons will come from the ‘Come and See’ curriculum. The first topic that we will look at is called ‘People’. We will be learning all about how important families are, and find out that Jesus has a family tree of his own. We will read stories from the Old Testament on Abraham, King David, Ruth and Jacob. The second topic that we will look at is named ‘Called’. We will look at how we are all called to be a part of God’s family. This topic will focus on how we are baptised and confirmed in God’s name. In addition, we will study a topic called ‘Gifts’ in preparation for Advent. Throughout the term we will also have stop and think days, where the children will be encouraged to learn about special events such as World Peace Day.

**French**  
Our first French topic this year looks at how we describe a person. We will be thinking about what colour hair and eyes people have. We will also think about what nationality people are and how we say this. We will also recap on basics such as counting to 10, saying hello and introducing ourselves.

Important Dates

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Our class Mass is Friday 4th October, the Welcome Mass is Friday 11th September and our Stay and Pray is Friday 29th November