

## Year 4 – Autumn Curriculum Newsletter

Dear all,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful, restful summer and are ready for a new school year. I am super excited to be joining the St Mary's Community and look forward to working together with you and your child.

This letter will inform you of all the exciting things your child will be learning about, over the next half term.

### General Reminders:

Children must bring the following equipment into school every day:

- A **pencil case** with; writing pencils, coloured pencils, sharpener, ruler, rubber and a glue stick. A whiteboard pen is also handy, but we do have some in school that the children can use.
- A **reading book**
- **Home school diary**
- **Bottle of water**

Please ensure that your child is reading at home **daily** and that this is noted in your child's home school diary **daily**. The home school diary is also the place for any important notes, especially regarding a change in pick-up arrangements. The home school diaries are checked regularly in school.

Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform every day and that all of your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name.

P.E. will be on a **Tuesday Morning** with Mrs Dyer and on a **Friday** with Mr Bentley & Mr Hurd.

Mr Bentley's release time will be covered by Mrs Michette, Mrs Mudd and Mrs Ahmed.

An overview of spellings for the whole half term has already been provided in the Home/School diary. Please check carefully which spelling list is being tested each week - but you are more than welcome to look ahead & practise the rest too. There are 10 spellings in total each week for the first term. These will increase to 15 per week in the spring and summer terms. Please note that the current spellings are from the Year 3 & 4 statutory spellings list.

Spellings and Times Tables will be tested on **Fridays**. Children should practise both at home daily.

### Curriculum:

Our over-arching topic up until Christmas is 'Mesopotamia'. We have chosen this topic to allow the children to explore a different way of living and how they have influenced the world. It is important for children to know that our culture is influenced by the thoughts and beliefs of others. We will be reading 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said, which links with our topic, along with other extracts of a variety of text types to supplement.

### R.E.

Our topics for R.E. this half term are 'The Bible'.

The Bible Learning Foci						
Know that the Bible is one story told through many different books.	Know how to find a Bible reference.	Know that in the Bible, God tells us about himself.	Know some of the stories and characters in the Bible.	Know some of the stories and characters in the Bible.	Know that Mary's message from the angel is one of the most important events in the whole world.	Know that God speaks to us in the Bible.

### Science

Our topic for this half term is 'States of Matter'. Children will continue to develop their 'Working Scientifically' skills by planning, designing, undertaking and evaluating their own investigations.

States of Matter Learning Foci						
To understand the scientific vocabulary linked to our new topic	To know that materials can be classified into states.	To be able to read temperatures on thermometers; to describe the process of melting.	To observe that materials, change state when they are heated and cooled.	To explain the key aspects of the water cycle.	To investigate how water evaporates	Mini Assessment Quiz

### Maths:

Our areas of focus up until Christmas are: Place Value, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Area and Perimeter. Children will develop their fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills in these areas.

Children will continue to be tested on their times tables weekly. Regular practise of these is very important and can have a great, positive impact on their Maths attainment and the Government Times Table Test in June 2022.

Place Value	Addition & Subtraction
Place Value: Recognise the place value of each digit in a 4-digit number.	Add and subtract numbers with up to 4 digits using the formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction where appropriate.
Round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000.	Estimate and use inverse operations to check answers to a calculation.
Compare: Order and compare numbers beyond 1000.	Solve two-step addition and subtraction problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why.
Solve number and practical problems	Solve problems, including missing number problems, using number facts, place value and more complex addition and subtraction.
Find 1,000 more or less than a given number.	
Identify, represent and estimate numbers using different representations.	
Read Roman numerals to 100 (I to C) and know that over time, the numeral system changed to include the concept of zero and place value.	

### History:

Our topic is 'Mesopotamia' what did Ancient Sumer give to the world?

Mesopotamia Learning Foci					
I am learning when and where the ancient Sumerian Civilisation first appeared.	I am learning about how and why the ancient Sumerian people made an impact on the world	I am learning about some of the religious beliefs, practices and	I am learning about artefacts used by the ancient Sumerian people and understand what	I am learning more about the culture of the ancient Sumer through their stories.	I am learning how to share what I have learned, in a way that is

	with their inventions and technologies.	laws of the people of ancient Sumer.	they tell us about their culture. I am learning about the Standard of Ur and how it was used.	I am learning how their civilisation came to an end.	appropriate for my audience.
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### English

Children will continue to develop their comprehension and writing skills through the study of our class texts. Children will also develop a greater understanding of Y4 grammar and punctuation.

Children will have the opportunity for free reading time in class & they will further develop their reading skills in guided reading sessions. However, we do recommend that children read at home with an adult daily.

Reading	Writing	SPAG
Ask questions to improve their understanding of a text.	To begin to use ideas from their own reading and modelled examples to plan their writing	Fronted adverbials [for example, Later that day, I heard the bad news.]
Drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings thoughts and motives from their actions and justifying inferences with evidence.	To compose and rehearse sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures.	Noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases (e.g. the teacher expanded to: the strict maths teacher with curly hair)
Making predictions from what might happen from details stated and implied.	To consistently organise their writing into paragraphs around a theme to add cohesion and to aid the reader.	Expressing time, place and cause using conjunctions [for example, when, before, after, while, so, because adverbs [for example, then, next, soon, therefore] prepositions [for example, before, after, during, in, because of]
Discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.	To increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting (e.g. by ensuring that the down strokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch).	Headings and sub-headings to aid presentation
Listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks	To make deliberate ambitious word choices to add detail.	Use of paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme
Preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action	To proofread consistently and amend their own and others' writing, correcting errors in grammar, punctuation and	
Recognising some different forms of poetry [for example, free verse, narrative poetry		
Checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding,		

<p>and explaining the meaning of words in context</p> <p>Develop positive attitudes to reading, and an understanding of what they read, by: listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks</p> <p>Retrieve and record information from non-fiction</p>	<p>spelling and adding nouns/pronouns for cohesion.</p> <p>To begin to read aloud their own writing, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and to control the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.</p> <p>To write a range of narratives and non-fiction pieces using a consistent and appropriate structure (including genre-specific layout devices).</p> <p>Rehearse sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures.</p>	
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### P.H.S.E.

Our Topic for this Half Term is Health and Wellbeing –  
Healthy Lifestyles and Growing and Changing

<p>Learning Foci Big Questions? What can we do to stay healthy? How do we grow and change?</p>	
<p>To know why adopting a healthy lifestyle is important for everyone.</p>	<p>To understand why we feel different emotions in our lives.</p>

### Art and Design

This half term we will be developing our drawing and painting skills.

I am learning how to use B pencils and a viewfinder to see and represent detail in a still life.	I am learning how to use pencil to create form, contour and texture	I am learning how to create different textures with different pencils to explore the negative space in a drawing	I am learning to make tertiary colours by mixing primary and secondary colours. I can use a variety of brushes to make different marks.	I am learning the technique of wet on wet with water-colours using natural shapes to explore detail and colours.	I am using my knowledge of tertiary colour and wet on wet painting to create an abstract work inspired by nature.
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P.E, Music & French:

These will be taught by Mrs Dyer on Tuesday mornings.

We look forward to working with you over the term. Should you ever have any questions or problems, please don't hesitate to make an appointment to see me or pop a note in the home-school diary.

Best Wishes,  
Mr. Bentley