



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust

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Year Four Newsletter
Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. This class newsletter will give you information about some of the things we will be doing this term. We hope you will find it useful.

English: This term we will continue looking at explanation texts, in which the children will write an explanation based on an invention that they have designed. We will look at Wallace and Grommit's 'Cracking Contraptions' for inspiration.

We will also be studying the book, *Leon and the Place Between* by Angela McAllister and Grahame Baker-Smith through which we will be learning a range of skills including adding descriptive detail to make our writing more vivid, using single clause sentences and multi-clause sentences broadly accurately and using fronted adverbials.

Maths: This term we will look at 'properties of shape' in which we will build on developing classification of quadrilaterals and internal angles. We will also be studying decimals numbers, calculating with decimals and problem solving with decimals which will lead on to working with money.

After this we will be learning about fractions – fractions of quantities, ordering fractions and equivalent fractions.

The children will continue to take part in weekly times tables challenges. We would really encourage them to play 'Times tables Rockstars' at home as we would like all the children to be fluent with all times tables up to 12x12 by the end of the year.

Science: This unit focuses on the digestive system in humans and animals and the functions of teeth. Children will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain. In addition, they will extend their understanding of food chains to more complex chains and food webs.

Humanities: Our topic this term will be 'Stone Age to Iron Age – changes in Britain'. The children will learn about how early man survived in a harsh environment, why Skara Brae was important for understanding life in the Stone Age, how copper mining was crucial to the Bronze Age and why Stonehenge was built. Children will also learn about why Iron Age people developed hillforts and how important Druids were in Iron Age Britain.

Music: The children will be continuing to learn the clarinet this term with Miss Tunstill.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL): The children will continue to have the opportunity to practice their French language skills this year. Children will be learning to engage in conversation, ask and answer questions and express opinions and respond to others. We will be trying to speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language skills and begin to develop accurate pronunciation and intonation. This term we will be focusing on 'Habitats' and 'At the Café'.

Company Number: 7944160

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PE: Children will continue to have PE sessions every **Thursday and Friday**; Mr Baker will lead these sessions. Please ensure your child has full PE kit in school, including sensible trainers and a plain black or navy blue tracksuit. It is important, for hygiene reasons, that children wear specific PE jumpers as they should not be wearing school jumpers for these sessions. Children have been asked to take their PE kits home every Friday so they can be washed. Please ensure your child's kit is back in school every Monday in case additional PE sessions are allocated.

If your child wears earrings, please take them out on PE days (if they cannot do this for themselves). If children need to cover their earrings, please provide tape for them to do so.

Other information

Reading: Please continue to read daily at home – thank you for your support so far, It is so important for children to read regularly; just ten minutes every day has been shown to make a real difference. Confident readers have the ability to access the wider curriculum in a more independent way so please take time to enjoy books together. 'First News' is a popular newspaper for children which keeps them up-to-date with current affairs too.

Homework: Weekly homework will be set in advance, on a half-termly basis; one piece will need to be submitted each Friday throughout the term.

How can you support your child at home? Thank you for the support you already provide for your child. Please continue to support your child through:

- listening to your child read regularly – enjoy this special time together
- helping your child to complete weekly homework - taking a real pride in the presentation of work submitted
- helping your child to learn times-table facts up to 12x12

Clothing: All items of clothing must be labelled clearly as this will ensure that, if an item of your child's uniform is mislaid, it can be returned easily.

If there is anything you need to discuss with us, please send a note in with your child or see us after school when the children are dismissed. Alternatively, make an appointment with the office to see us after school.

We hope you find this information useful and thank you in advance for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming parent consultation evening later in the term.

Kind regards

Miss Locke and Ms Bull
Year 4 Class Teachers