



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

# Year 4 Autumn Term Curriculum Newsletter

2017 - 2018

## English

We will be covering a range of genres in Year 4 and will be using both fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our topics as our inspiration. The children will continue to develop their knowledge of grammar and will aim to further improve their spellings and handwriting.

The children will be working on adding a greater variety of sentence structures to their writing, including the use of features such as fronted adverbials and relative clauses. I have introduced a new concept to the children called 'target sentences' where I will progressively teach them simple, but effective, sentence types that they can easily include in their writing.

This term we will be seeking our inspiration from the Ancient Greeks and we will be writing non-chronological reports and myths.

As well as guided reading sessions, there will be a focus on comprehension work in other English lessons, especially working on skimming and scanning techniques. There will be a continued emphasis on reading at home, including Bug Club (an online reading site). I appreciate all the support you give your children at home, as this has a positive impact on their school work.

## Maths

Year 4 is a key year for our pupils, as there is a national expectation that pupils know their times tables (and divisions) up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. In order to help the children, I have introduced a maths badge system, whereby the children earn badges for each multiplication/division table they learn off by heart. In order to win a badge, children must

answer 26 questions, with only 5 seconds to answer each question. While this appears tough, it ensures that a child has truly learnt a times table off by heart.

This half term we have started to further develop our mental maths abilities and will then look at measurements, including time. After half term we will be learning about fractions and we will be introducing the concept of decimals.

## Science

Our first topic in Science is **Electricity**. The children will be learning about how electricity is generated and what we need electricity for. They will learn about circuits and diagrams and will get the chance to create circuits and draw diagrams, complete with the correct symbols.

After half term, we will be studying **states of matter**. Children will learn the differences between gases, solids and liquids and will then go on to study the water cycle.

## R.E.

This half term the children will be looking at **people**, in particular people in our family, important people and important people in the Bible (particularly the Old Testament). After half term we will be looking at what it means to be part of the school, our **community** and the church. The children will then be looking at why Jesus chose people to be his apostles/disciples.

Towards **Christmas** we will be studying gifts, particularly the gift of Jesus being born. As the children enter Year 4, there is a greater opportunity for children to lead prayers in class.

## Art and D.T.

Our first D.T. topic links beautifully with our electricity topic in Science, as the children will be constructing their own **torches**! Using the knowledge learnt from science, the children will design, construct and evaluate their product.

Our first art topic is '**European Art**', which links in with the European Geography also being studied. The children will learn about the lives and work of European artists such as Salvador Dali, Michelangelo and Coco Chanel. They will create their own artwork inspired by these famous artists.

## History and Geography

In History this term, the children will be studying **Ancient Greece**. As well as learning about myths in English, pupils will be studying Athenian democracy, the Ancient Olympics, the Trojan War and their ancient beliefs.

After half term, in Geography the children will be studying **Europe** (particularly Eastern Europe). They will study the cities, countries, landscapes and climates, as well as learning about the events and impact of Chernobyl.

## French

Children will continue to be taught by specialist teachers from the Languages Department. They will be revising prior learning such as self-introduction, describing and animals and talking about their families. Children will also develop their writing skills, as well reinforcing their oral skills.

## Music

Miss Firman from the Music Department will be teaching the children Music this term. Year 4 will be continuing their exploration of pulse and rhythm through singing and body percussion. The pupils will also be creating their own rhythm pieces inspired by 'Stomp', using classroom objects. Children will be developing their singing skills - increasing their vocal range and ability to sing in time, in tune and in separate parts. Children will also be developing

their understanding of dynamics, time signatures and musical stave notation. In their **string sessions**, children will continue working on technique.

## Computing

In computing this half term, the children will be learning the basics of **software programming**. Areas covered include: inputting commands, working with variables and debugging. After half term the children will be learning more about **online safety**.

## P.E.

Mr Kinney from the P.E. Department will be taking the class this term. The main focus this half term will be **football**. The Daily Mile is being continued from last year, and will be undertaken in the afternoon with Mr Tomlinson.

## Homework

Each week, the following homework will be set and expected to be completed. Each week, homework will be set on a Friday and will be handed in on Wednesday.

- **Reading** – all children are expected to read daily. As well as reading physical books, children will now get a chance to read books online on Bug Club (same company as Abacus). Children will be allocated new books on Bug Club every two weeks.
- **Maths** – all children will be given a times table to learn. Children will be expected to learn all the multiplications up to x12 and all the corresponding divisions. They will be tested the following week as part of the maths badge challenge. Children will continue to play maths games on Abacus. There will be a maths activity sent home each week as well.
- **Spelling** – all children will have a weekly set of spellings to learn. The spelling test will be on the following Friday.
- **Topic** – a homework based on one of our topics will be set each week. This can vary from a piece of written work to a piece of artwork.

## **Birthdays**

As you will know, as a school we have moved away from bringing in cakes and sweets to celebrate birthdays. If your child would like to celebrate their birthday with their peers in school, we very much welcome them to bring in something the whole class can enjoy. For example, they could donate a book which the whole class could enjoy.

## **Class Reps**

As you will remember, each year 2 or 3 parents are nominated from each class to become class reps. They are the link between the class teacher and the other parents of the class. They will be in charge of updating parents with regards to upcoming dates and events throughout the year and will pass on any messages if necessary. If you would be interested in taking on this role, please contact Mr Tomlinson.

## **Class Fund**

As in previous years, we would like to ask you for a voluntary contribution of £5 per term to support our work with the children. This enables us to be able to buy items to help our activities, as well as ingredients for cooking, plants for growing etc. Please send cash in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name.

## **Communication**

I will always be available for a chat at the school gates before and after school, and can also be reached by the school telephone number or a note can be sent in with your child. Please send any emails you wish to send me via

[primary@srrcc.org.uk](mailto:primary@srrcc.org.uk).

## **Important Dates**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September-** Reception children start full time

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September-** School Photos

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September-** Poetry Week

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September-** Poet visit and book signing after school

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September-** Poetry Exhibition

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October-** House Afternoon

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October-** School Closed

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October-** Half-term

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October-** Parents Evening

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November-** All Saints Day. New build opening mass

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November-** Parents Evening

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November-** Flu vaccinations

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December-** School closed

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December-** Infant Nativity

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December-** House Afternoon

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December-** End of term