



ST RICHARD REYNOLDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Year 4 Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter

2018 - 2019

Message from Mr Tomlinson

I would like to wish a Happy New Year to everybody and I sincerely hope you've all enjoyed your Christmas Holidays. I am humbled by the generosity shown with the presents and cards given to me. Thank you all very much!

After a successful first term, we have another exciting term ahead of us. Hopefully this newsletter will inform you of the fantastic learning that we are about to undertake!

R.E.

This term the children have already started learning about **Epiphany** and have studied Biblical accounts regarding the Magi. Children will start to learn about **community**, in particular the local church. They will learn about what it means to belong to a community and a parish, as well as learning about Jesus choosing apostles to follow him.

As we approach Easter, the children will be learning about **Lent** and will be preparing for the annual Easter Play. Excitingly, as Year 4 pupils they will have the opportunity to audition for bigger acting and singing roles. The play will also aid the learning and understanding of the Easter Story.

English

In the first half of the term, English will take inspiration from our Ancient Maya topic. Children will be using non-fiction texts for research purposes and will write a **non-chronological report**. They will also be writing **newspapers** and **persuasive letters**.

After half term, the children will be reading *George's Marvellous Medicine* by Roald Dahl. This will be used to inspire **descriptive writing**, **diary entries** and **recipes**.

The children have made fantastic progress with learning target sentences and have used these effectively throughout their writing. They will continue to embed the target sentences they have already learned and will start to learn new ones as the year progresses.

Each child has a target sheet in their English books and will always have three targets to continually work towards. I am delighted with the number of children who have already met some of their targets.

The spelling and grammar which will be looked at this term is as follows:

- Homophones and near homophones
- -ation suffixes
- Sub and Super prefixes
- Plural Apostrophes
- 's' sound spelt sc
- Soft 'c' sound spelt 'ce'
- Soft 'c' sound spelt 'ci'
- Word families based on common words

Guided reading will continue and the children will have two new books to look forward to. There will be a focus on retrieval and interpretation skills in English classes, as well as focusing on author choices.

Maths

This half term in Maths the children will be working hard on **compact written methods** for **subtraction** and **multiplication**, as well as **mental methods** for **multiplication** and **division**. Children will be further developing the ability to use column method to subtract increasingly difficult 3 and 4-digit numbers and to multiply 3-digit numbers by a single digit.

The children will also work on fractions, including finding **equivalent fractions** and **simplifying fractions**. In addition, children who have passed all of their maths badges will have a timed challenge, where they'll need to calculate **fractions of numbers**. Geometry will also be covered, with lessons on **angles**, **polygons** and **symmetry**.

After half term, the children will be working on decimals and money, as well as revisiting time and doing more work on the four operations. Children will learn how to **round decimal numbers** to nearest whole numbers and to use decimal knowledge to multiply and divide numbers by 10 and 100. Decimal knowledge will also be used to add and subtract amounts of money. Children will finally be developing their ability to solve **time problems** and to calculate the **perimeter of rectilinear shapes**.

The children have made excellent progress with learning their times tables and they will continue to work hard on trying to learn all of them by the end of the year. I am looking forward to even more children completing their badge cards this term and pushing those who have already completed them.

Science

The two Science topics this term will be '**Sound**' (this half term) and '**Scientists and Inventors**' (next half term). In the 'Sound' topic, children will learn about how sound is created and how it travels. Children will also have an opportunity to create and use string telephones. After half term, children will learn about historical figures such as Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison, as well as looking at famous inventions.

History

In History the children will be studying the **Ancient Mayan Civilisation**, looking at both artefacts, geography, beliefs and myths. The children will learn about Mesoamerica and how the natural surroundings had an impact on Mayan civilisation. There will also be a study into the impact of the Spanish Conquistadors and what happened when the two civilisations met. The children will also get a chance to learn the Mayan number system and working with a base 20 numeral system.

Computing

In computing, children will be consolidating e-safety, particularly how to be safe online. Children will learn how to use spreadsheets on Purple Mash's 2Calculate. A range of skills will be covered such as using formulae, creating graphs and making practical use of a spreadsheet.

D.T. and Art

In **Art**, children will use fruit and vegetables to inspire artwork in a variety of medium such as charcoal, pencil drawing, painting and sculpture. Children will be creating moving toys in **D.T.**, in particular using a cam mechanism.

French

In French, children will be learning about towns and related vocabulary. They will learn words for buildings, transport and how to give directions. After half term, children will consolidate knowledge of towns and will also learn vocabulary and sentences related to clothes and shopping.

Music

Year 4 are continuing with their work on String instruments this half term. Through rhythm work, note name games and other activities they are getting to grips with their violins, violas and cellos. If any child is wanting to progress further with these instruments via individual tuition, please contact Miss Moss for more details

P.E.

This half term, children will be doing hockey and gymnastics. Hockey will involve further developing running, spatial awareness, object manipulation and communication skills. They will learn how to use a hockey stick to control a ball, pass, block and shoot successfully. In gymnastics they will be working on balancing and travel.

After half term, children will be learning to play netball and will also be learning dance. They will be working in small groups to create a dance routine for the annual SRRCC Primary Dance Challenge.

Homework

Homework will continue in the same way as it was last half term. It will be set on Fridays and due the next Wednesday. Spellings will be tested on Fridays and times tables will be tested throughout the work. Please continue to use Bug Club and to complete the Abacus Games set.

Regarding Maths homework: There will still be an A, B and C part to it – please don't feel that a child has to do all three parts. Children must select the one that best suits their ability for that topic (i.e. a challenge but they can still mainly do it independently).

Class Fund

As always we value any extra financial contribution that you are able to make for resources for your child's class. In KS2, we recommend a donation of £5 per term if possible toward the class fund. Many thanks in advance.

Important Dates

Friday 18th January – Film Night Fundraiser

Tuesday 5th February – Safer Internet Day

Thursday 7th February – Peter Cowley E-Safety Talk for Parents (6.30p.m.)

Monday 11th to Friday 15th February – Arts Week

Monday 18th to 22nd February – Half term

Monday 25th February - Inset day

Wednesday 27th February – Arts' Week Celebration Event

Wednesday 6th March – Ash Wednesday (Distribution of Ashes)

Thursday 7th March – Parents' Evening; Lenten Art and Prayer Group starts; World Book Day – Lenten Fundraising

Monday 11th March – Year 4/5 Reconciliation

Tuesday 12th March – Parents' Evening

Thursday 14th March – Lenten Art and Prayer Group

Friday 15th March – Lenten Fundraising

Thursday 21st March - Lenten Art and Prayer Group

Friday 22nd March – Lenten Fundraising

Tuesday 26th March – RMT Primary Singing Festival (choir only)

Thursday 28th March - Lenten Art and Prayer Group

Friday 29th March – Lenten Fundraising

Thursday 4th April - Lenten Art and Prayer Group

Friday 5th April – Lenten fundraising; 1p.m. finish: END OF TERM