

TERMtalk

CURRICULUM NEWS
FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY
Issued termly Term 1 Year 4 September 2018



English

This term the children will be studying books written by the author and illustrator Anthony Browne. In **Voices in the Park** they will explore the story of a visit to the park from the point of view of four different characters. They will learn how authors use text and illustrations to show the moods of their characters and through drama and role play they will explore the relationships between them. The book will be a stimulus for the children to write character descriptions, letters offering advice and diary entries.

During the second half of the term we will be focusing on fantasy stories with extended pieces of writing. It will centre around the book 'Winter's Child'. Children will also be finding out about the importance of **Diwali** in the Hindu religion by reading information texts and watching some BBC video clips; this will enable them to learn the skills of note taking. They will then be writing their own reports about **Diwali**.



Every week your child will be given a list of words, which they will need to use in their writing, to learn. **Please ensure that you support your child in learning them.**

Maths

This term the children will follow the **National Curriculum** for maths, but many objectives are similar. The main emphasis for the first half term is still **place value, ordering and rounding** and working with **numbers up to 10,000**. We will also consolidate our understanding of the **relationship** between **addition and subtraction, doubling** and finding **patterns**. There will be plenty of revision of **mental methods of the four rules of number** involving hundreds, tens, and units.

The children will be checking their answers by using **inverse operations** e.g. subtracting to check addition and multiplying to check division work. As the term goes on children will also be working with statistics, and revising **mental and written methods of multiplication and division**. They are also expected to learn **length and perimeter**. The other topics that they will be studying are **money** and “**real life**” problems. We will strengthen converting **pence to pounds** and pounds to pence. In length, we will learn efficient methods of how to change **centimetres to metres**.



Science

Our first Science topic for year 4 will be **Living Things and Their Habitats**. Through **discussion** and **investigation** we will discover what an **organism** is and where they live. We will find out how different **climates**, other **plant life** and **environmental changes** affect the **life style** and **evolution** of plants and animals. The children will explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. The children will also be undertaking cross curricular work, linked with the English non-fiction topic about endangered animals.



During the second part of the term, children will be studying the **States of matter**. They will be finding out about the properties of the three different states of matter: **solids, liquids & gases**. They will learn how to use **thermometers** and set up enquiries about matter **changing from one state to another**.



OTHER



HISTORY

In History this term we will be studying **Roman Britain**. We will begin by investigating the ancient group of people who lived in Britain over 2000 years ago; the **Celts**. We will learn about **where they lived, what they ate and what they spent their time doing**. We will then find out about the growth of the **Roman Empire** and contrast the Roman way of life with that of the Celts. We will discover **when and why the Roman invaded Britain**, and find out about the emperors **Julius Caesar and Claudius**.

In the second half term, we will be **studying** how the Roman settlers lived in Britain. We will find out how they built their roads and cities, how they made and decorated luxurious villas, what they ate and which gods they believed in.

Music

In music this year we will be taught by a musical specialist who will teach a wide range of skills and concepts.. They will have the opportunity to play instruments developing confidence with notation and rhythms and starting to compose music using a whole range of music. We will be continuing to improve our singing by learning new songs including rounds.

The class will also take part in weekly Hymn Practice sessions.

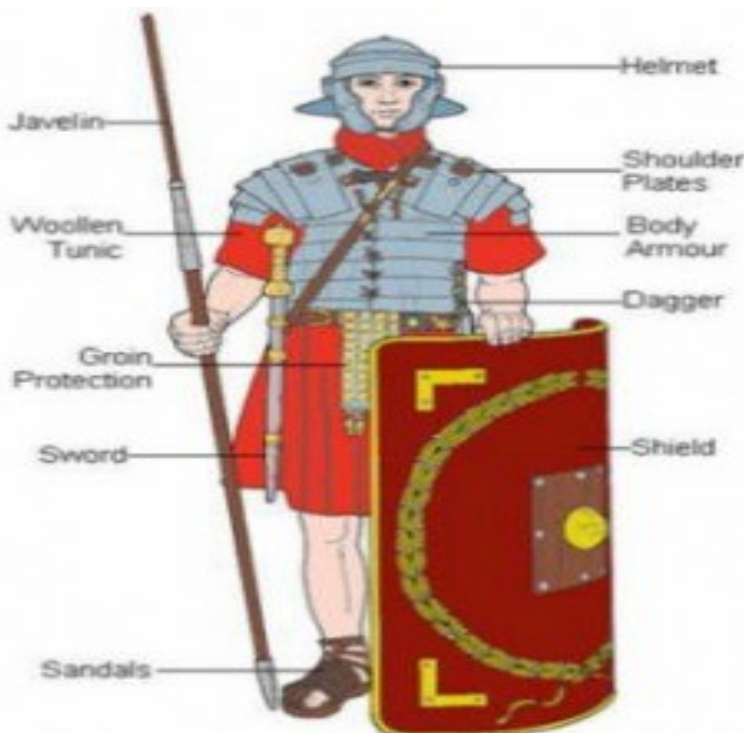


Computing

During the first half of this term, the children will, be learning about **E-SAFETY** and how to use the internet and social media safely. It is very important that you support your child and there is a wealth of information for you to read about this topic on our school's website

www.stjosephs.southwark.sch.uk

Throughout the second half term the children will be working on the unit "**Animations**". They will be learning how simple stop animations work, and creating their own basic animations and learning to edit them. Children will be using the story of Rama and Sita as cross curricular links to English and RE.



MORE SUBJECTS

Art & Design

Much of our work this term will be based around our topics in English, History and RE. In the first few weeks we will be designing and creating Roman shields, which the children will be using during a Roman Battle re-enactment. Mr. Jerry will be doing lessons which link in with our book 'Voices in the park'. The children will be using sketching, printing and collage to create scenes.

As part of our R.E. topic, Hinduism, the children will be producing art work, including pictures of oil lamps called divas and Rangolii patterns made of coloured rice.



P.E. & Games

In the first half term children will be learning Dance led by a specialist instructor. The children will take part in a range of physical activities which involve the whole body; as well as learning the techniques of balance, rhythm and control.

In **Games**, the children will revise and practise a wider range of **football skills** with the emphasis being on greater **control of the ball and positioning of feet**. They will also learn how to pass and shoot with greater accuracy. Following on from this, the children will be learning the rules of Tag Rugby and the skills on how to play as a team.



R.E.

In the first half term we will study the topic **The Bible**. In the second half term we will be studying the topic **Trust in God**. See separate newsletter for more information.

★ Please note: Correct PE kit, including trainers or ★
★ plimsolls not fashion trainers, must be worn at all ★
★ times. A plain white T-shirt and navy blue shorts. ★
★ A plain navy blue or black tracksuit may be worn ★
★ for outdoor games during winter. ★



Homework

Homework tasks are given to consolidate your child's learning. It is **essential** that all children are given support with all their homework; this includes learning to spell the words on their weekly spelling list and completing activities on MyMaths.

Parents are also expected to hear their child read every evening and sign their reading diary.

Homework will be given out every Friday and must be returned on Monday.

We will be most grateful if you could supervise your child as they complete their work. Thank you.