

Spring Term

in Courage and Hope Class

'Encouraging each other, overflowing with hope.'

Happy New Year. We hope you have had time to rest and relax over the Christmas break and are looking forward to a busy Spring Term.

Mr. Shortland had a great break by spending time with his family by going on lots of dog walks, swimming and eating lots of festive treats!

Mrs. Smith loved having time to sit back and relax, reading and catching up on lots of Christmas films.

Be sure to keep visiting our class page on the school website to see our fantastic work and comments made by the children. <https://www.st-thomas.gofederation.co.uk>

Remember to follow us on Twitter too- @MrsSmithST and @NS_StThomas

Our curriculum

We continue to teach each subject discretely, each having a key question that we will answer over the term. Each lesson will allow us to build knowledge and understanding to enable us to independently answer the question using examples and evidence from what is taught. Make sure you check the class pages to follow our learning journey for each unit of work. The spider diagram in this newsletter gives you a taster of each.

Why would you visit Europe?

This is going to be another exciting term for the children! We will be learning about the continent Europe, looking at the different geographical features of countries, famous landmarks and key facts about some of them. The children will have the opportunity to really explore countries in depth and explore concepts that take their interest. This links to the homework project sent home for this term, where we encourage children to choose a country or theme that interests them. We can't wait to see their creativity.

As our learning develops over the term, we hope to be able to invite some parents and carers into school to share their knowledge of other European countries- a separate letter will follow about this after half term.



Times Tables!

Children must be able to recall times tables facts ($6 \times 5 = 30$), and the related division facts ($30 \div 5 = 6$) as it is vital for many areas of learning in Maths. The children are becoming more aware that they will find Maths easier when their times table knowledge improves. Please ensure they are practiced regularly at home, even if it's while driving in the car or while walking to school! This year they will sit the recently introduced Year 4 times tables test, which will be administered to all children in the UK. Please use the link below to help your children practice as it will be administered online and the children will be timed. They have all practiced this at school so it will not be unfamiliar to them.

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

Regular challenges will be posted on MathsShed- pupils have their own login which is stuck inside the cover of their homework book. Please do logon regularly as our classes go head to head!

Reading Books These need to be in school **daily**. In Year 4 children are allowed to change their books independently. As soon as they have finished their last book and their Reading Record has been signed, they will be able to change. Bringing books in from home is also encouraged.

Please remember to sign your child's Reading Record every time you read with them or see them read. It is vital we can keep track of what they have read and how often. Please visit our web pages and the information about reading for pleasure, as it will give advice on what questions you can ask to support your children.

Homework is important and we expect everyone to complete it and hand it in on time. Homework will be set every Friday and should be completed and handed in by Wednesday. If you have any concerns with this, please see your class teacher. This term there is the Europe homework project, which will also have Maths set alongside it and weekly spellings.

Spellings will be set on a Friday and tested the next Friday. Learning spellings is not just about being able to recall them for a test. The children need to practise spellings in order to remember them long-term for use in their writing as well. Spellings are in the front of their yellow spelling book and they will be tested in the back. We advise children use a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check approach as set out on the spelling sheet. Other ways to help children learn include chanting the letters, finding words within words, and circling the letter combinations they find tricky. This makes the learning more exciting and memorable.



Easter Worship

Year Four have the pleasure of presenting the Easter Service to the school community. Pupils will lead a reflection into the events of Holy Week, accompanied by songs and prayers. Further details for this will follow next term and will be dependent on covid regulations at the time.

Year Four Curriculum Overview

Art- Why is colour value important in paintings?

This term we explore the work of Jackson Pollock and Leonardo Da Vinci as we begin to work as painters. We will explore their use of colour and texture in their work.

English Skills

This term we focus on writing to persuade as we write letters in character and create persuasive adverts. Our focus text will be *Voices in the Park* by Anthony Browne, where we explore the characters relationships with one another. We then use our learning from PSHE to support us to write persuasive adverts for toothpaste.

Science- Why are insulators as important as conductors?

Working as physicists, we explore electricity this term, exploring circuits; how to make and assess them, by adding in switches and light bulbs. To recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

Computing

Our focus is on coding where we will create a program that uses a repeat command and controlled loops to produce an outcome. They will also debug their programs throughout.

Year Four Spring Term Overview

Geography- Why would you visit Europe?

This term will have a geographical focus. It will include naming and locating key countries within Europe and identifying human and physical characteristics of the countries we visit. Children will also compare places using this knowledge.

R.E

In our Islam unit, we will be investigating how Muslims build a sense of community through worship and how Muslims express their beliefs collectively.

Mathematics

We will begin the term by exploring multiplication and division and how formal methods can be used to help us solve different problems. We will then move on to finding the area of shapes before investigating fractions and decimals.

P.E.

This term we will have dance on a Tuesday afternoon and hockey with Elite sports coaches on Thursday morning.

Music

Our focus will be on singing by introducing harmonies to a broad range of unison songs by pitching our voices accurately and including dynamics.

PSHE- Why is a healthy lifestyle important? With a focus on Health and Wellbeing this term. We will identify what contributes to good physical and mental health and identify ways we can take good care of ourselves.

PE lessons will be on Tuesday and Thursday. Please make sure PE KIT is in school every day so that it is always available! There will be no more swimming in Year 4.

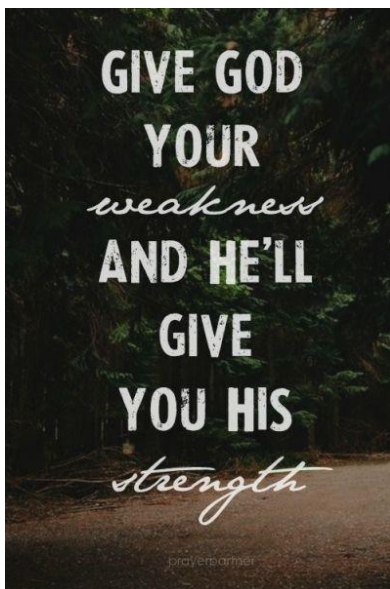
If you want to support your child further please explore the following websites. A huge range of educational websites are available online, please check that any that your child uses are suitable for their age. Remember - a great way of supporting your child's learning (and a fun one) is to play the online games with them.

<https://www.learninggamesforkids.com/geography-games/europe.html> (Europe games)

<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/europe-facts.html> (Europe travel guide for children)

https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/circuit-construction-kit-dc/latest/circuit-construction-kit-dc_en.html construct your own electrical circuit online.

The Year 4 team continue to be excited to help your children to reach their potential this year, and we appreciate your support across the curriculum. Please do speak to us if you have ideas, questions or concerns about your child. We are always interested in activities children take part in outside of school, so it would be lovely to see any certificates or awards your child receives. Remember to inform of us of any change in circumstance - little or big. It can really affect the behaviour and feelings of your child and we want to offer support as fully as possible.



Mrs Smith,
Mr Shortland
Miss Stanley
Miss Ainsworth
Mrs Hubbard

Don't quit yet, the worst moments are usually followed by the most beautiful silver linings. You just have to stay strong, remember to keep your head up and remain hopeful.



Reading Recommendations



Arthur searches the attic when his grandfather disappears, thinking it is all a trick but soon realises he has slipped through a folding bed to the Land of Roar. This is a great imaginative tale which we know lots of you would get fully immersed in!

Luke goes to the toilet and returns to find his brother has been changed into a superhero by a passing alien. A really funny page turner that we know will make you laugh out loud.

