



Spring Term

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.

Ms. Richardson enjoyed spending time with her grandson and granddaughter, taking her dogs on long walks and visiting Whitby Abbey and York Minister.

Mrs. Vasques played lots of board games with her children, whilst looking after the birds in the garden and spending quality time outdoors.

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.stthomasacademy.co.uk/>

Remember to follow us on X (formally Twitter) too- @MsRichardsonTE

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 an insight into the learning for each subject.

During the Spring Term, we build on our History learning from last term and continue to work as Historians and Geographers. To begin with, we answer the question, what enabled the vikings to trade around the world? We begin with looking at why Lindisfarne was important as this was the first recorded raid by vikings before looking at their trading and craftsmen skills. We are looking forward to handling artefacts from The Collection linked to vikings before we investigate their mode of transport. Finally, we will look at how Alfred the Great resisted the vikings before looking at the effect the vikings had on England.

In Spring Term 2, we answer the question, Why would you visit Europe?

We will be learning about the continent Europe, looking at the different geographical features of countries, including rivers, 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.



Times Tables!

As discussed before, 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 Year 4 times tables test, which will be administered to all children in the UK in June. 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 Mathshed- 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! If you need a reminder of this, please see your child's class teacher.

Reading Books These need to be in school **daily**. In Year 4 children continue 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. The children are currently reading 'The Firework Makers Daughter' by Philip Pullman. Will Lila be a firework maker? We can't wait to find out!

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. In Term 4, we will be setting a Europe Homework Project. More information will follow.

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 to remember them long-term for use in their writing as well. Spellings sent home on paper and do not need to be stuck in. 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. Please note that this is only to the children and parents will not be invited to this event.

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. We start with writing persuasive adverts trying to convince people to buy our toothpaste, which will be linked to PSHE. Then, our focus text will be *Voices in the Park* by Anthony Browne, where we explore the characters relationships with one another.

Science- Why are insulators as important as conductors?

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

Computing - How do you create a program on Logo?

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

History and Geography- What enabled the vikings to trade around the world? Why would you visit Europe?

We start this term looking at the reign of the Vikings and how they were able to trade with other countries and the effect on England. After that, we become Geographers as we name and locate key countries within Europe, identifying human and physical features.

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.

RE - How does trying to follow shariah (straight path) create a community?

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

Music - Why do we have sheet music?

This term we will play different chords on the ukulele and work towards a performance!

P.E.

This term we will have Tennis focusing on what our performance says about us as a player. In Dance, we will be working on how a sequence helps create a flow.

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 a Thursday and Friday for both classes. Please make sure PE KIT is in school every day so that it is always available!

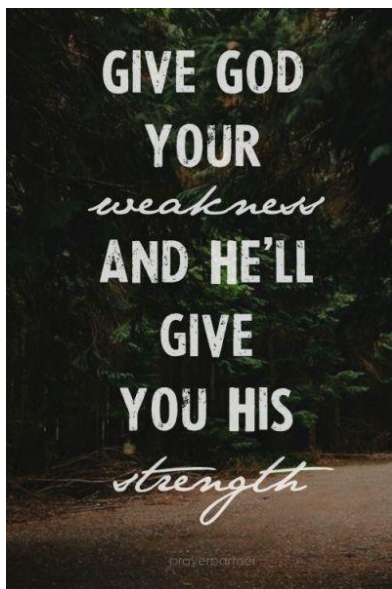
If you want to support your child further, please explore the following websites. A huge range of educational websites are available online, please check that any that your child uses are suitable for their age. Remember - a great way of supporting your child's learning (and a fun one) is to play the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



Ms Richardson,
Mrs Vasques &
Miss Rekasute

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.



Recommended Reads

