

Autumn Term Class Newsletter Mrs Cruickshank's class.

A note from Mrs Cruickshank

Hello, happy new year and welcome back! I hope everyone has had a lovely Christmas holiday and are ready for the spring term. We have another busy and exciting term and are starting off with our skills builder week using our skills to design a new confectionery brand! In history we will be learning all about the Romans and have an exciting workshop planned in the coming weeks for us to really get to grips with what life was like for the Romans. Later in the term, Year 3 and 4 will be leading the Easter church service after exploring the Easter story in RE too. We decided last term that our class cause is Guide Dogs, Northwest and I can't wait to hear your ideas for fundraising this term!

English

We are reading *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo alongside a range of linked non-fiction texts about Africa and Nature Reserves. The children will apply and develop their writing skills further to produce a narrative based on the themes of adventure and friendship with an animal, a non-chronological report on South Africa and a letter in role as a character from the text.

In class, we will be reading and exploring in our reading sessions a fiction, non-fiction and poem over the term: *Bill's New Frock* by Anne Fine *A Life Electric: A Story of Nikola Tesla* by Azadeh Westergaard and *Things That Lurk in the Library*, a poem by Joseph Coelho.

Maths

In maths we will be focusing on:

- Multiplication and division.
- Length and perimeter
- Fractions
- Decimals

It is important that the children are learning their times tables at home to support them with their maths work in school. They can access the TT rockstars online games to do this.

Science

In science, we will begin the term by exploring magnetic forces and describing the movement of objects on a range of surfaces. In the second half of the term, we will be learning about rocks and fossils; describing the properties of igneous and sedimentary rocks and illustrating how these are formed. The children will also describe and illustrate the formation of fossils.

History

In history this term we are deepening our understanding of the Romans. Our lessons will be focused on the concepts of culture and past times and society and conflict. We will also be looking at artefacts from these periods of history and discussing what they tell us about the way people lived during this time and how life improved as time progressed.

Geography

Before Christmas we looked at the five primary rivers in Europe and organised key information about them. This half term we will be deepening our understanding about the features of rivers through the concepts of physical and human features and learning about erosion and deposition, the effects of this on rivers and coasts and how this is managed.

Other curriculum information:

Homework

Homework will be given out each **Friday** and should be returned before the **following Friday**. The homework will always be linked to something we are studying in class.

Home Reading

Please listen to your child read **at least three times per week** for 15 minutes and record it in their school diary. Diaries must be signed by an adult after each read and need to be in school every Tuesday to be checked by Mrs Knott.

TT Rock stars and Spelling tests.

Compulsory homework

Children are expected to complete **20 minutes** of TT Rockstar games which will be set **each week**. This is checked weekly and must be completed. **Pupils will need to complete during break times if this is not completed at home. This is compulsory.**

Spellings will be given out every **Tuesday** for a spelling test the following Monday. **The pass mark is 7/10**. Retests will take place on Wednesday.

Other curriculum information

Skills Builder- Our skills this term are staying positive and leadership. The children will complete tasks that will support them to develop these skills and be given opportunities in lessons to exercise them.

Art and Design- This term we will be exploring light and dark by using tints and shades to paint an object in 3D. We will then produce a final painting that shows an understanding of how colour can be used to show light and dark, and therefore show three dimensions. In DT we will be building structures: castles.

Computing – This term, Y4 will explore programming and coding. They will understand what computational thinking is and apply this to solve problems. They will explore the programme Scratch to do this.

PSHE – 'Relationships' is the focus of our PSHE lessons this term, where we will explore the importance of friendships, how to build positive friendships, how to resolve disputes and reconcile differences positively.

PE- Some children will be going swimming on **Thursday afternoons** to secure their national curriculum award and some pupils will do gymnastics, dance, hockey and athletics across the term with Mr Broughton. The correct swimming kit will be needed, and pupils need to come to school in the correct P.E kit.

RE – During the first half term, we will explore the question, what do Christians learn from the creation story? And for the second half of the term, we will be looking at Easter leading up to our church service.

Music- This year our music lessons will be delivered by the Wigan Wider Opportunities service with Mr Perry. There will be concerts held each term for parents! ©

Spanish- This term, we will continue to develop our language skills by learning the Spanish names for fruits and learning how to name up to five action verbs in Spanish. Throughout the term, pupils will continue to explore basic Spanish phonics to support them with their pronunciation of the language!

Website: saintmarys.wigan.sch.uk

Facebook: [St Mary's CE Primary School](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCEPrimarySchool)

The website has full information about the school's curriculum, class information, school information and copies of previous letters sent out. Messages will be sent home using Class Dojo so please ask your child's teacher for information on how to join up if you haven't already.