

## Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter: Autumn 2

### Message from your teacher

Hello, everyone! It has been a pleasure to welcome back your children after the half term holiday. We hope you all have had a relaxing week. This half term will be busy on the lead up to Christmas. We look forward to celebrating with a carol service in December. Please see the dates for your diaries below.

### Key dates for the diary

**CAFOD Movie Night:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
**Attending Parish Mass:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
**Non-uniform Day for Christmas Fayre:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
**Y3/4 Carols by Candlelight:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
**Christmas Fayre:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
**Jolly Jumper Day/Christmas Dinner Day:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
**Christmas Party Day:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### Key Information

Your child's PE days are **Thursdays** and they will go swimming on **Fridays**. Children must come to school wearing a full PE kit on both of these days.

Your child is aware of their reading day. They should make sure they have their reading book and reading record in on this day to read with an adult in class. Please encourage your child to read regularly at home.

All homework is set on a Friday. The spelling sheet should be kept at home and the spellings practised daily, ready for the test on Friday.

Maths homework is due on a Wednesday. Children are expected to know all of their times tables (x1 to x12) by the end of Year 4. Please work with your child on their times tables and encourage them to use **Times Table Rock Stars** and **Hit the Button** online. You can find your child's Times Tables Rock Stars login details in their homework file.



### Our learning in Year Four



**Maths:** This half term we will be studying efficient methods of addition and subtraction and practising quick mental maths methods. We will focus on number bonds and column addition and subtraction. Your child will continue to learn the formal column methods required to solve a range of calculations. We will then learn about length and perimeter before moving on to multiplication and division.

**English:** This half term in English we will build on the work we have done on historical fiction and turn to a non-fiction text; a diary entry from the survivor of the Titanic. We will be learning all about the Titanic and the events that lead to the infamous disaster. Children will look at ambitious vocabulary and emotive language before writing their own version of events from the point of view of a survivor. We will then begin our poetry topic on dialogue and monologue poetry. Children will study the key skills needed to write their own, including using different rhyme schemes metaphorical language.

### Other Curriculum Areas

In **Geography** our new unit of work is 'Rivers'. We will learn about the different stages of the water cycle, identify the features of a river as well as considering the 'role' of a river. Importantly, we will study the impact of flooding on our local areas and consider how this can be addressed in light of climate change.

In **Science** we will begin a new unit all about electricity. Children will learn about safety when using appliances in the home. They will study electrical circuits and begin to learn about how electricity flows and how it can be paused by a switch. They will test materials to see if they are insulators or conductors. The children will learn about renewable sources of electricity as well as fossil fuels and their impact on the environment.

In **R.E.** our work focuses on community. We are studying the role of different individuals in the parish family. Later in the term we will celebrate the season of Advent and prepare for the very special celebration of the birth of *Christ*.

In **French** the children will continue to learn adjectives and agreement before moving on to describing themselves using vocabulary related to appearance and character. They will use their new knowledge to write a fact file about a famous French person.

In **R.S.HE.** we will be exploring the topic of 'Me, My body and My Health'. We will celebrate our similarities and differences and learn about the importance of appreciating and looking after our bodies which are gifts from God.

In **Art**, we will continue to explore 'Illuminated Letters and Patterns'. We have studied the Lindisfarne Gospels, the book of Kells and fairy tales and have taken inspiration from the lettering to design our own initials. We will use the skills we have developed over the course of the unit to design our final piece. We will also annotate our work, describing why and how we used particular techniques. We will then begin our Design and Technology topic, investigating pre-made pasta sauces before making and testing our own.

