**Spring Newsletter Year 4**

Firstly, we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! we hope you all have stayed safe and well and managed to have a good break over the holidays.

**Reading:** Please ensure that your child reads **every night with you** in order to develop fluency. Evidence shows that good readers are also good spellers and good writers. Reading records are provided for date, book and comments to be added by you or your child. Please encourage your child to fill in their records daily. Also, it would greatly benefit the children if you could spend a little time talking about the text and asking questions to encourage your child to really think about what they have read. This will greatly help their comprehension skills. Try to make a reading an enjoyable experience so that children develop and love and passion for reading.

Children will also participate in whole class reading, where a specific novel has been chosen. This could be a classic, modern contemporary, a novel chosen to support the present topic, or simply a novel chosen for enjoyment.

**Homework:** Homework will be given out each Monday. Homework will consist of literacy, numeracy and spellings. From time to time, RE, Science or Topic homework may also be given. Homework should be returned the following Monday. Can we take this opportunity to commend you as parents for the support that you give to your child with completing their homework and returning it on the due day.

# Topic and Curriculum

Enclosed with this newsletter is the spring overview showing the curriculum coverage specific to this term. Our Humanities coverage is a new topic entitled ‘Europe and International Trade’. We look forward to exploring this exciting period of time with your child. Our Science topics will be ‘Sounds’ and ‘Living things and their habitats’.

French will be taught weekly by Mrs. Ramdarshan.

**PE:** This will take place every Tuesday with a specialist PE coach this term. This year we are asking the children to come to school on our designated PE day, dressed in their full, correct PE kit. This means your child will need to have the school tracksuit bottom and sweatshirt with our school logo, under which they are expected to wear their white St Mary’s PE top and shorts. Children should wear their **normal black school shoes and bring their black trainers or plimsolls in their small PE** bags to change into. Please ensure that your children have the correct PE kit and that each item of clothing is clearly labelled with your child’s name. For health and safety reasons children are not permitted to borrow other children's PE kits. All earrings should be removed on PE days prior to coming to school. If for some reason your child has to keep their studs in, these should be very carefully taped over at home.

In addition, the children will participate in in Swimming lessons at Waverley School on a Friday. You have received two additional information letters preceding this newsletter, outlining expectations

**Times table learning:** As you may be aware the children in year 4 should hopefully, take part in the government proposed Times table test due to take place in June. At present we have not received confirmation that during these strange times, that this will still be going ahead.

As always, we shall keep you posted with any decisions made, but we ask that you revise all times tables with your child between now and the end of March 2022

At St Mary’s we aspire to ensure that the children achieve the objectives that are laid out in the National curriculum at the appropriate age related expectation.

We will therefore continue with setting our children their times table targets alongside our regular in class weekly learning. We look to your continued support as the first educators of your child to help us with this aim by helping your child to regularly practice their targeted times table at home. Please refer to your child’s individual target sheet when they are sent home.

**Thinking skills, habits of mind & thinking maps**

The development of children’s thinking and reasoning skills is a key focus of our school. To ensure that we continue to develop this skill in the children, the Edward de Bono thinking hats, Habits of Mind and Thinking Maps will be a key feature in all of in their everyday lessons in order to assist the children in their ability to structure and organise their thinking and ideas.

**Classroom Environment**

**CLASS RULES**

We spent time during our first week back discussing the rules that we felt as a class will help **t**he children to learn and work in a happy and positive environment. Additionally, the rules reflect the ethos and mission statement of St. Mary’s school. These are now displayed in our classroom. The school’s rewards and sanctions for good and bad behaviour have also been discussed with the children.

Throughout the year, Mrs Vuksanaj will be the teaching assistant who will work alongside the class teacher to support our children’s learning.

**Reminders to Students and Parents**

* Water bottles in school at this time are vital as the children are unable to use the water fountains.
* Reading book and reading record should be in school **EVERY DAY.**

Kind regards,

Ms Joseph & Mr Dixon