



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school after what we hope was an enjoyable Easter break. I'm looking forward to the summer term and the fun and hard work we have ahead of us. I've been so impressed with how the children have come back from their break and am anticipating a very positive term. The Year 4 team will be working hard to ensure that the children continue to feel supported.

Our topic this term is 'Inside the Amazon'. This should be an interesting and enjoyable journey for us all, acting as an exciting source of inspiration throughout the term. Strong cross-curricular links will allow an opportunity to explore geographical, literary and artistic perspectives as well as encouraging relevant discussions on topical subjects around the environment. This will lead us nicely into the second half of the term where we will focus on climate change and deforestation. In all subjects, we will continue to explore texts, authors and artists that celebrate and highlight diverse characters, representative of a vast range of backgrounds. An outline of the areas we will be covering can be found on the curriculum map, accompanying this letter.

This term, Year 4 will continue to have PE lessons on Monday and Thursday so please ensure that the children continue to bring their PE kit in on a Monday ready for the week ahead. We are lucky enough to be having a specialist cricket coach working with the children on Monday mornings which is a fantastic opportunity. We will continue to have recorder on a Friday and philosophy on a Thursday.

As always, all children are expected to read every day and they will have the opportunity to return and exchange books from our book corner. Our book corner is full of a wide variety of texts in all different genres and the children are free to explore it during Morning Challenge time. Homework will be set every Friday on Purple Mash with a final push on timetables being an ongoing focus. The children have made a fantastic effort with their times tables so far this year and it is important that we keep practising both at school and at home to ensure that all times tables up to 12x12 are embedded.

I am very much looking forward to an enjoyable summer term with the children. Here is a reminder of my email staylor@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk. Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely
Stef Taylor
Class Teacher
St William of York

English

'Jemmy Button' will be our focus book for the first half term. We will be focussing on sentence structure and how to add information using appropriate conjunctions. The children will continue focus on grammar helping to develop their writing and produce a published piece of work. We will explore the purpose and audience for our writing and they will have opportunities to share their writing orally. The children will be encouraged to use expanded noun phrases, accurate speech punctuation and varied, correctly formed sentences. There will be a strong focus on re-reading their writing, empowering the children to spot their own errors. In Guided Reading, we will continue to focus on vocabulary, retrieval and summarising and will start a new book call 'Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure'.

Maths

Continuing to approach our maths with a mastery methodology, we will begin with a continuation of decimals. We will then move on to an exploration of money, using our knowledge of decimals to calculate change including pounds and pence. We will move onto statistics and from this concentrate on the properties of shapes, giving the children the opportunity to compare and contrast different shapes making links to previous learnings of right angles and simple angles within shapes. A continuation of geometry will lead us to end the year with an exploration of position and direction. We will spend the remainder of the year consolidating maths topics taught previously in the year with time to recap topics such as division and multiplication. We will also continue to play games and complete tasks based on times tables up to 12 times 12.

Topic

This term, we will be exploring South America and the countries within it. We will focus on both physical and human geography, comparing the South American way of life to that of our own existence. We will make links to our English texts and introduce The Amazon, considering the unique physical geography that it has to offer. This will include an exploration of wildlife, location and climate, leading us into the second half of the term where we will explore deforestation and the impact on the environment and climate change.

Year 4

Topic: Inside the Amazon

Teacher: Stef Taylor



Art

The children will explore the art of habitats, particularly focussed on birds' nests. We will use a range of mediums and techniques to demonstrate how to make improvements to our design and material choices.

RE

In RE, we will be focussing on the theme of New Life. We will learn about the feast of Pentecost. We will explore the power of the Holy Spirit as well as the gifts and guidance given. We will explore the journey of Paul and the growth of the Christian church. From here we will enter a topic named Building Bridges where we will discuss sin and forgiveness as well as exploring the sacrament of reconciliation. and the penitential rite.

Science

In Science, we will be looking at living things in their habitats, exploring classification keys and adaptation to specific environments. We will have the opportunity to work outside and partake in practical activities. Linked to habitats in the Amazon Rainforest, we will move onto exploring how these has been impacted by climate change. We will consider what we could do to improve the and help our local environment to thrive.

Computing

This term we will continue to use our Chrome Books in computing lessons exploring the functionality of using computers to aid our writing and edit our work. We will also explore a range of multi-media sources such as audio files, video and digital pictures that we will learn to cut, resize and edit, based on the output we wish to present.

PE

Outdoor

We are lucky enough to have Platform Cricket come in to deliver the cricket lessons for this half term. Children will then hopefully attend a cricket festival to put their new skills into action.

Indoor

In indoor PE we will be exploring south American Dance such as Salsa and Samba.