



**English Martyrs School,
St. Mark Street, London, E1 8DJ
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We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together in search of excellence, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

5th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4; I hope you have had a happy and restful time with your family and friends. I look forward to working with you and your children this year. I am particularly privileged to see the progress they have made by working hard since Reception.

This is an outline of our planning this term.

You may send your child in with a water bottle and we have a new 'bottle filler' fountain installed so children can refill.

P.E will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please send your child dressed in their P.E. kit on these days. They can wear additional trousers and a jumper to school in the colder weather. This has worked well. Mrs Hutton will continue to use her considerable expertise to teach netball with me on Wednesdays and we hope to play some matches in the spring or summer term.

Swimming is on Thursday this year; the children should wear their school uniform and will need a swimming hat and optional goggles.

Spanish will continue on Wednesdays.

All children will learn either the violin or cello on Fridays and there will be a short concert in the summer.

As you will see from the school letter, Miss Nugent is making a steady recovery but will not return to school yet. I will continue to cover for her at school events but as the autumn term is traditionally quieter, I intend to be based in Year 4 apart from Wednesday and possibly Thursday.

I will continue to use Wednesday as my day out of class to cover my role as SEND Coordinator and Computing Coordinator. I would like to assure you that I plan the work for the supply teacher and am committed to your children's progress in Year 4.

Ms Hancock will continue to work with groups in Year 4 and of course, has the benefit of knowing the class. These groups may change along with the children's needs.

Our topics this term are Explorers; particularly in Antarctica, and Chocolate.

History and Geography will be about places and people involved, developing our understanding of how, where and why people explore. We will study maps, globes and atlases; identifying signs, symbols and features and plotting the routes of famous voyages of exploration, particularly Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Our R.E. topics are The Bible and Trust in God and we will use the scheme, The Way, The Truth and The Life to develop our understanding of our faith and how we can use it as a force for good in our lives.

In English we will focus on story writing, poetry and factual report writing eg newspaper articles. We have a particular emphasis on reading so I will include reading in all History, Geography, Art and Science lessons. This will widen the children's technical and descriptive vocabulary across the curriculum and teach them to distinguish between the two.

Our books are Sophie Scott Goes South by Alison Lester, Ice Trap the story of Ernest Shackleton and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.

We will also read a range of articles and poetry to increase the enjoyment of reading that the children have shown this week.

Comprehension this term will be based on Explorers -12 Epic Journeys across Land and Sea and Sophie Scott Goes South.

Our spelling and grammar will include the National Curriculum list for Year 4 and topic words for History, Geography, Science and RE. We will also focus on sentence structure, verb tenses, the apostrophe for possession and noun/verb agreement.

In Science our topics are Living Things and their Environment and Changing States of Materials. We will learn about classification of animals and the effect of heating and cooling chocolate and other materials. We will continue to practise the accuracy and observation techniques needed to work scientifically.

The Maths planning focuses on numbers to 1000, place value, calculation and problem solving using the four operations. We will also use measurement and weight when we cook with chocolate next term. Mrs Pasha has decided that all classes incorporate Statistics and Geometry (properties of shape, position and direction) weekly and adapt our maths planning accordingly. Traditionally, teaching these concepts has been in the summer term. However, the children will benefit from understanding and applying their knowledge of number to these concepts early in the year. The first half of the autumn term will be statistics, including tally and bar charts. The second half of the autumn term will be making and interpreting line graphs.

Please remember coats when the weather is unsettled.

Homework will involve spellings, Mathletics and comprehension of a topic based piece of text in order to develop language, fluency and confidence in speaking.

For example: 'Write 3 things about Antarctica in your homework book. Tell someone at home. Allow them to ask 3 questions based on what you have said. Record their questions.'

I hope this model of homework will give you an insight to what your child has been learning and give them the experience of talking about what they have learned. I hope also, that it will develop their speaking and listening skills.

We will continue to use Google Classroom in our computing lessons. The children will use their log in to access activities Purple Mash and the LGFL Content Grid confidently.

We look forward to working with you and can answer any questions at the gate in the mornings.

With very best Wishes

Mrs C Pannell

Miss Anna