



**English Martyrs School,
St. Mark Street, London, E1 8DJ
Tel: 0207 709 0182**

We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together in search of excellence, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Dear Parents,

18th September

Welcome to Year 4; I look forward to working with you and your children this year. They have grown and developed so well in their learning and in their character in the years since I taught them; they are a credit to you.

This is an outline of our planning this term.

Please send your child in with a water bottle as the fountains have been turned off.

P.E will be on Friday. Please send your child dressed in their P.E. kit on Friday which they will wear all day. They can wear additional trousers and a jumper to school in the colder weather. Please understand that this is the advice of the Association for PE.

There is no planned return to swimming at the moment.

Spanish will continue on Wednesdays.

I will continue to use Wednesday as my day out of class to cover my role as SEND Co-ordinator, Deputy Head and Computing Co-ordinator. 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.

We are the nominated 'gardening class' and will use the vegetable boxes to plant and harvest a variety of flowers and produce. It will also support our science through the use of our environment and developing greener practices.

Our topics this term are Explorers and Chocolate.

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

Our R.E. themes 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. With this letter is a letter from Miss Lambert, the R.E Co-ordinator to give you further details of the curriculum.

In English we will focus on story writing, poetry and factual report writing eg newspaper articles. We have a particular emphasis on reading this year 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 Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo, Sophie Scott Goes South by Alison Lester 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.

Non fiction for 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, 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 heat and cold on chocolate and other materials. We will continue to practise the accuracy and observation techniques needed to work scientifically.

The Maths planning focuses on place value, calculation and problem solving using the four operations. We will also use measurement and weight when we cook with chocolate next term.

Please remember coats when the weather is unsettled.

Homework will be paper based this half term. It 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.

After half term, we will begin to use Google Classroom for one piece of homework per week in Year 4. The children will be given a log in and we will practise using Google Classroom at school before then, so that in the event of another Lockdown, the children can access activities confidently.

We will continue to use Mathletics and Purple Mash.

I look forward to working with you and can answer any questions.

Best Wishes

Mrs C Pannell