



**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 and Carers,

13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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.

This is an outline of our planning this term.

You may send your child in with a water bottle which can be refilled from the bottle refill fountain.

P.E will be on Tuesday. Children can wear additional trousers and a jumper to school in the colder weather.

Swimming is on Friday this year; the children should wear their school uniform and must have a swimming hat; goggles are optional.

Spanish will continue on Wednesdays.

Year 4 will not learn the violin or cello this year, so will have a weekly music lesson with Mrs Simon

I will use Thursday as my day out of class to cover my role as SEND Coordinator and Computing Coordinator. Ms Hancock and Miss Nugent will teach Year 4 on Thursdays.

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, including the Mayan civilisation.

We will develop skills in History and Geography to learn about places and people, 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, Gut Garden by Katie Brosnan 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 use our class books and 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 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, maths and English or topic work.

*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. In addition, I hope 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.

This year, we will be trialing maths homework books in place of Mathletics. Our maths coordinator will monitor the impact of this very closely, as we aim to encourage a reduction to children's screen time. Your child will receive a workbook to take home with clear instructions of the pages to complete. This work will correspond closely with the topic being studied in class. Please do not exceed the pages requested to complete, as this is the year's homework book. Upper KS2 may occasionally receive additional homework.

Accompanying this letter is the suggested reading book list for Year 4 and the topic plan for 'Explorers.'

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

With best Wishes

Mrs C Pannell  
Ms Hancock  
Mrs Hutton