

# Year 4 Newsletter – Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents/Carers:

We are very excited to have the privilege of working with your children. There are so many important and exciting milestones that will be happening for your child this year; We have no doubt that it will be fantastic! The Year 4 team consists of: Mr Akinyemi, Ms. Dewan, Steve, Alasma & Isabelle.

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the first half of the Autumn term, as well as some general timetabling information. Please remember that there is more information on each year group page on our school website including our learning chronology.

Our big question for this term is 'Can learning from the past teach us to improve?' We will use this question to draw links across the curriculum from science enquiries involving observations over time to reflecting on the impact of The Vikings. We will also look at how this question links to our school values particularly responsibility and partnership.

In **English**, our first novel will be The Saga of Erik the Viking. Linked to our topic on Vikings we will use this fun text by Terry Jones to engage the children in their topic learning and throughout this half term we will be roleplaying a Viking longboat crashing in a storm, writing letters that reflect on our Viking adventures and planning our own Viking saga.

We will be continuing our **Reading** program: Destination Reader. We would like you to discuss the key skills of reading with your children (predicting, making connections, asking questions, evaluating, inferring, summarising and clarifying).

Our **Maths** focus this half-term will include: place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will be solving word problems, developing our ability to explain and check our working out. We will also be taking part in maths investigations. Children will also be practicing mental math strategies and arithmetic with a particular focus on times tables. We will have a times tables test every Monday – please check our homework sheet to see which times tables will be tested.

Our **History** topic will be Vikings and Anglo Saxons 1066AD. Alongside this newsletter you have received a knowledge organiser. This contains an overview of key knowledge for your child's history topic this term. Please encourage your child to become familiar with the knowledge contained in the organiser at home, as this will allow for more focus on historical skills, rather than knowledge, within lessons.

In **Science**, our topic will be about **Living Things and Their Habitats**. We will investigate different living things and their natural habitats. Children will explore a variation of organisms and life processes using key skills of scientific enquiry.

In **Art**, we will be exploring the infamous work of **Vincent Van Gough**. The children will be learning to cultivate their own artistic skills using depth, texture and colour to create their own portrait in the artists' style.

Our overarching theme in **Religion** this term is: **“How did belief in God affect the actions of people from the Old Testament?”** We will learn about different way of celebrating holy communion, different Christian approaches to music and consider how Christians make a difference in their local community and stand up to injustice.”

**Physical Education** will be on **Wednesday**. This term, our topic is **Orienteering** and adventurous activities. Physical education will take place outside this term (unless raining), please ensure your child has the correct kit on this day. The PE sessions will be led by Anna who is the lead member of staff for PE at St Luke’s.

In **French** this half-term, our French teacher Mme Col will be building the children’s understanding of the language and giving them the chance to practice in different contexts.

Finally, in **Music** children will be exploring rhythm and melody through singing, movement and dance. In our communication unit we will think about messages that can be spread though music and we will also look at the bridal march and the link between music and dance.

**Homework** will be set for the half term on with a focus on numeracy and literacy work with a list of spellings. We would also strongly encourage all children to complete a homework project. This half term we would like to see some 3D work on The Vikings. In addition to this, your child will be assigned **15-20 minutes of reading every night**. We will also have spelling and times table tests every Wednesdays. If you wish to receive more homework you should have already filled in a slip however please let us know if you haven’t.

We are looking forward to a great year! If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Mr Akinyemi, Ms. Dewan, Steve, Alasma and Isabelle

The Year 4 Teaching Team

