

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

“Created by God to love and learn”



Terms 3 and 4

Year 3/4 – Mrs Grew and Mrs Swonnell

Happy New Year

We wish you all a very happy New Year and hope that you have all been able to have a lovely break over the Christmas holidays. Thank you so much for the many cards and gifts that we were given at the end of last term. We are looking forward to a busy term ahead with new topics, books and interesting activities. Let's just hope we all stay well and healthy. We would love to have some parent volunteers come and support us in school. If you are available, do come and talk to one of us about ways you could help.

Spellings

It's been great to see the progress made in spelling so far. We will continue to give out new spellings on a Friday to be tested the following Friday. Please create time for your child to learn and practise them at home. We will also be sending home the Y3/4 national spelling list. This is a varied vocabulary sheet of words for them to learn and to use in their independent writing. Making up silly sentences and playing word games (written or spoken) with these would be great.

Homework

Supporting your child to do their homework will accelerate their learning. Homework will be given out every Friday and will need to be returned by the following Wednesday. The homework will comprise:

- An on-line Maths piece using My Maths
- Times-table practice
- Daily reading and book talk (a minimum of 10 mins and recorded in your child's reading record)
- Weekly spellings

Reading

We both love books. For us, reading is not just a skill to unlock a reading scheme, but something which can improve your child's life. It helps with their thinking and imagination; it takes them on journeys through history and around the world; it can inspire them with knowledge about science, music, art and so much more; it allows them to research questions and to develop their own philosophy on life; it allows them to consider situations from other people's points of view and so to empathise with others' situations. However, and more importantly, it can improve their well-being, giving them an excellent way to relax. We want every child to enjoy curling up with a book to be transported into a world of stories. Please make time for your child to read and talk about their reading daily with you. Children will have time to read daily in school at the beginning of each day as well as bringing books home.

Music

This term, we will be using the glockenspiels to develop our musicality, learning to read notes on a stave and thinking about pitch, pulse, rhythm and dynamics. We will also use some of the non-pitched instruments to become composers. If you are interested in your child learning an instrument individually or in a group, please talk to Mrs Swonnell about these opportunities.

Art

This term, we will focus on the skills of printing. We will consider how to design a print block and the effects that can be developed using colour, rotation and tessellation of the print block. We will use these skills to make a tea packet. We will also use our drawing skills in our RE and topic work.

Mathematics

In term 3, Monday – Wednesdays, we will be focusing on multiplication and division followed by work on fractions and decimals. They will also be using the 4 number operations to solve problems. On Thursdays and Fridays we will have a focus on telling the time and using calendars before working on 2d and 3d shape. Please practise using clocks and watches at home – both digital and analogue. Finding opportunities to use maths practically will really help your child: games, puzzles, cooking, measuring and weighing, following instructions to make 3d models (lego or junk), making patterns and noticing patterns and shapes all around us.

Times Tables

Y3s are expected to know their 2,3,4,5 8 and 10 times table whilst Y4s should know all their tables up to 12 x12. Knowing these off by heart is an important skill for all their future maths. Later this year Y4s will take part in the National Multiplication Check.

There are many ways to learn these facts – songs, chanting, games, puzzles and websites. Lots of regular practice is better than one longer one.

TT Rock Stars is a web site where your child has a secure individual log in code to access at home and school. Do make time for your child to use this website regularly. Ten minutes daily “in the garage” would be superb.

English

This term, pupils are reading the book, Cloud Tea Monkey. This is a story set in India where goodness overcomes evil. We will explore its narrative structure and will be developing our writing techniques using it as an inspiration. We will be looking at developing vocabulary and using complex and compound sentences and correctly punctuated speech. In our non-fiction unit we will be looking at the power of persuasion.

Topic

During the next 2 terms, we will be learning about Europe and both World Wars. We would love to hear from any of you who perhaps have older relatives or friends and neighbours who can remember life as a child during the 2nd World War and would be willing to come in (or meet us on line) and talk to the children about their memories. Learning from older people is an important part of oral history.

RE

In RE we will begin with our Christmas unit and learn about the role of the shepherds and consider why Jesus described himself as a shepherd later in his life. We will then move onto Revelation unit and learn about the Old Testament character Samuel and how God called him to serve before learning how God still calls people to serve him.

DT

In term 4, in Design Technology, pupils will be focussing on aspects of food technology. Children will consider how a sandwich is made, its nutritional content and how to use kitchen equipment safely. We hope to do some tea tasting too to link to Cloud Tea Monkey.

Science

During terms 3 and 4, pupils will be learning how to classify plants and animals by their scientific properties. They will learn to look closely and to identify properties. We will also be considering the role of conservation to protect ecosystems and environments.

PE

The children have a fabulous attitude to PE in this class and we rarely need to remind anyone about coming in their PE kit on Tuesdays and Fridays. Our PE kit is a white T shirt with plain dark shorts. Whilst it's colder in Term 3, the children can wear plain dark joggers or leggings instead. On top of their t shirts, they are to wear their school jumper. Tuesdays, this term, we are focussing on gymnastic skills with Mrs Grew whilst on Fridays it will be tennis with Mrs Swonnell. Whether we have a future Emma Raducanu or Matt Whitlock in the class or not, keeping fit is something important that we all need to work on so we can be active and healthy in our future.