

# St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

*"Created by God to love and learn"*



Terms 3 and 4

Year 4 – Mrs Broster 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

Reading is an essential skill which children need to master so that they can become independent fluent readers. It helps them develop their vocabulary, discover information for themselves and enjoy a wide variety of books. It is a brilliant way, once fluent, for children to relax and enjoy the pleasure of books which will develop their imagination and improve their wellbeing. We are pleased to see that a lot have risen to the challenge to read regularly at home; we check this off in their reading record and award house points weekly. These children did extremely well in the last set of reading assessments. Well done! Please can we encourage all of you who are not hearing your child read at least 4 times a week, to take this up challenge as we start 2024. Once fluent, it's important to discuss the content of their reading matter to develop the new vocabulary and to access the higher order reading skills.

## Music

This term and into term 4, we will continue to work with the music professionals leading the Stardust Project. If you haven't already booked your tickets, do put the 6<sup>th</sup> March in your diary and order some. It's an amazing venue and we are very lucky to have been selected to go. It is unlikely that the school will ever have this chance again.

## Art

This term, our art unit focusses on using different types of pencil and charcoal. The children will learn how to show areas of light and dark in drawings. They will learn to show relative size of objects and use scissors to cut out images and try different arrangements of the images.

## Mathematics

In term 3 on Monday – Wednesdays, we will be focusing on multiplication and division using all the times tables. In term 4, this will be followed by work on adding, subtracting and comparing fractions.

On Thursdays and Fridays we will focus on time including the use of calendars, analogue and digital clocks as well as reading both 12 hour and 24 hour timetables to work out duration. Please practise using calendars, clocks and watches at home – both digital and analogue - as it really helps the children's deeper understanding of time when applied practically.

## Times Tables

Later this year Y4s will take part in the Government's National Multiplication Check. At this point, the expectation is that Y4 children should be fluent with all times tables' facts up to 12 x12. They have 6 seconds to answer each question on an online test.

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 website 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 would be better for them than 1 long session a week.

## English

This term, pupils are reading the book, The Iron Man. It's a Ted Hughes classic with absolutely fabulous vocabulary to extend the children's styles of writing. 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.

## Topic

During the next 2 terms, we will be learning about mountains, earthquakes and volcanos. We will be improving our mapping skills, considering how some physical landscapes are different to our city living. In term 4 we will explore the threat of living by a volcano and in the danger areas for earthquakes.

## RE

The R.E. learning will begin with a unit about Christmas, exploring the role of the angels as messengers of God. The pupils will think about how people receive messages from God today. Then the Revelation unit will focus on two stories: the Presentation and the Transfiguration. Following this, they will examine celebrations of light over darkness in the Sikh religion.

## DT

In term 4, in DT, pupils will investigate frame structures. They will learn to produce free-standing structures of different shapes and sizes and then design their own pavilion. For this part of their project, pupils will need to select appropriate materials and construction techniques to make their structure stable before adding cladding.

## Science

During terms 3 pupils will be learning about electricity and how electrical circuits work. There will be lots of practical lessons to help us understand these concepts. In term 4, we will move onto learning about sound and how it is transmitted through sound waves.

## 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 Mondays and Fridays. Our PE kit is the yellow T shirt, PE hoodie with plain dark shorts. Whilst it's colder in Term 3, the children can wear plain dark joggers or leggings instead. Mondays, this term, we are focussing on dance skills with Mrs Broster whilst on Fridays we will have a focus on invasion games with Mrs Swonnell. Keeping fit often appears on New Year's resolutions; it's important that we all can be active and healthy for our futures.