

# 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 is set every Friday. The homework will comprise:

- An on-line Maths piece using My Maths
- Times-table practice (Times Tables Rock Stars)
- 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 2026. 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 Elements Project. If you haven't already booked your tickets, do put the 18<sup>th</sup> March in your diary and order some. It's an amazing experience for your children to perform with professional musicians and other schools. We are very lucky to have been selected to go again.

## Art

In term 4, pupils will develop their drawing skills by exploring tone, texture and proportion. They will use a range of lines and marks to show light, dark and surface texture, creating a sense of form and depth. Pupils will consider size, placement and space within their compositions, reflecting on how artists use drawing to plan and develop ideas.

## 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 position and direction using coordinates, and data handling in term 3. Then work on measures and money in term 4. Do think about how you can use these skills in practical ways at home as it really helps the children's deeper understanding of maths when applied in everyday life.

## 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.

Lots of regular practice is best. Do make time for your child to use the TT Rock Stars website regularly. Ten minutes daily would be better for them than one long session a week. Ask your child to show you their heatmap on the site. They are aiming to turn it all green from red.

## English

This term, pupils are reading the book *Escape from Pompeii* which will enhance our learning in humanities. It's a beautiful book set in Pompeii at the time of Mount Vesuvius's eruption. It has 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.

## Humanities

During the next 2 terms, we will be learning about The Romans. We will be improving our chronological knowledge, looking at the legacy left behind in our country after the Roman invasion. There are many Roman sites nearby which are well worth a family visit: the Roman Baths at Bath, Chedworth Roman Villa, The Corinium Museum in Cirencester and the baths and amphitheatre at Caerleon in South Wales. D

## RE

The R.E. topic for this term is called Galilee to Jerusalem. The question we begin and end with is, "if you want to know who someone is, you need to look at what they say and do as well as how they behave." The children will learn about Jesus' miracles and his instructions for Christian living.

## DT

In term 4, pupils will explore shell structures by investigating how helmets are designed to protect the head. They will design and make a helmet for a Roman soldier, choosing suitable materials and strengthening techniques. Pupils will then evaluate how effective their helmet is for its purpose and suggest improvements.

## Science

During term 3, pupils will be learning about conservation and avoiding various forms of pollution. We will have a visitor from Wessex Water talk to us about sewage treatment and water pollution and will be using our science work as a focus for our non-fiction writing in English later in term 3.

## 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 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. Tuesdays, this term, we are focussing on gymnastic skills whilst on Fridays we will have a focus on invasion games. Keeping fit often appears on New Year's resolutions; it's important that we all can be active and healthy for our futures.