



St John and St James C of E Primary School Class Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 4, welcome back to SJSJ!
We hope you had a wonderful, relaxing summer break!

We are really looking forward to learning lots of new things this year!



Adults working in Year 4

Miss Al-Sahar
Miss Valeur

Humanities



This term we will be basing our learning around the exciting topic of **'The Victorians'**.

We'll explore Victorian-era childhood, starting with a comparison of Victorian Hackney and today.

We'll examine how schools, health, medicine, and religion affected children then. Additionally, we'll research Victorian Workhouses and debate their safety for children.

PE

PE will take place every **Thursday**.



The focus for this half term is: **basketball**. Be reminded that children are to come to school in their PE kits as this allows them to maximise their learning time.

Science

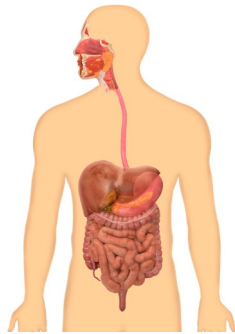
In science, our topic is **Animals including Humans**.

We'll build on our Year 3 knowledge by studying the digestive system's functions. We'll start with how saliva enzymes break down food and then explore the roles of various teeth and organs.

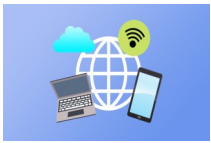
By the end, we'll apply our understanding of food cycles to analyse food chains.

Throughout this unit, we will be working scientifically by:

- Exploring and comparing human digestive systems against animal digestive systems
- Identifying and naming different types of teeth
- Predicting where living things fit in a food chain
- Investigating the affect of sugar on tooth decay.



Computing



This half term in computing, we will be developing our understanding of **The Internet**. We will also continue to discuss ways to stay.

RE and PSHE

In RE, our learning will be focused around the Old Testament and we will be considering the question:

'How did belief in God affect the actions of people from the Old Testament?'

We will be learning about key people and stories from the Old Testament and discussing how we can learn from specific Bible stories.

Our PSHE theme for this half term is: **'Being me in my world'**

We will use this unit to reconnect with each other and take part in discussions about what shapes our world.

Key dates

Tuesday 17th September: The Ragged School Museum (all day).

Wednesday 16th October: BHM workshop at the Hackney Museum (afternoon session).

Wednesday 23rd October: BHM Performance at church.

Art



Each week, we'll have art lessons focused on Pablo Picasso.

We'll start with Cubism, exploring the colour wheel and complementary colours. Then, we'll paint our own portraits in Picasso's style.

After that, we'll study Faith Ringgold and create repeated patterns using polyblock printing.

Home Reading

Children will choose an age-appropriate text from school to read at home—this needs to be brought into school everyday.

Children should read at home for at least 20 minutes each evening and record it in their green reading journals. These journals will be checked daily, so please ensure your child brings it to school every day.



Homework

Homework will be uploaded to your child's Google classroom account every **Friday** and must be returned to school by **Tuesday**.

Weekly, there will be a writing task, maths activity and set of spellings. Children are to complete the activities in their homework book.

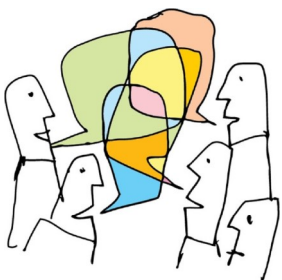
Spelling tests will take place on a **Friday** and will be based on the previous week's homework.



Oracy

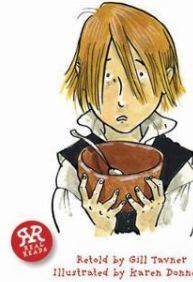
As a school, learning to talk through high quality talk opportunities is a priority for all of our children.

In every lesson, pupils will be engaging in a range of oracy activities which will develop their ability to articulate themselves coherently, including the ability to build on or challenge the opinions of others with confidence.



We would like to share our oracy skills with you on our Debate Day, which will take place on Friday 25th October at 2.30pm. We would love for you to join us in class to be part of our class debate on that afternoon.

English



Linking with our humanities topic on The Victorians, we will be reading '**Oliver Twist**' - retold by Gill Tavner.

We will begin by writing detailed character descriptions of Oliver Twist and later composing letters and writing instructions on how to pickpocket!

In grammar lessons, we will be focusing on:

- Identifying the subject, object and verb in a sentence
- Adding adverbs and adjectives to up level our sentences.
- Embellishing simple sentences
- Using a range of fronted adverbials
- Punctuating speech correctly



Maths

This half term, we will be focusing on the following fundamentals:

Place Value

- Reads, writes, orders, compares up to 10,000 (knowing the value of each digit)
- Rounds to the nearest 10, 100, 1000 and decimals to the nearest whole

We will begin by using dienes to represent the value of each digit in a number and applying this knowledge and understanding to problem solve and reason in a variety of ways.



This half term we will be focusing on our **4** and **8** times tables. It is really important that the children continue to practise these regularly at home.

We will continue to use **Times Tables Rockstars** to encourage the children to apply their knowledge of times tables. All children will be able to access this from home—login details can be found inside the cover of homework books.