



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 half term!

Year 4 have shown fantastic interest in their learning during the first half term and we are looking forward to another great term.
We have many interesting units of work to cover and we are all excited to start!

Adults working in Year 4

Miss Al-Sahar
Miss Valeur



Geography



This term we will be focusing our learning around the exciting topic of

Volcanoes and Italy Mount Vesuvius!

We will enhance our understanding of geography by exploring the question -
' **Why are there no volcanoes in the U.K?**'

Our first step will involve researching Italy, comparing and contrasting its physical and human geography with that of the U.K.

Next, we will focus on Mount Vesuvius, examining the eruption of 79 AD and its lasting impact up to the present day.

PE

PE will take place every
Thursday.



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

Science

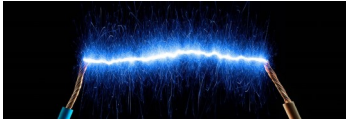
In science, our topic is
'Electricity'.

We will explore the various equipment needed to create an electrical circuit and examine how we use electricity in our daily lives.

Our key question is -
What does a lightbulb need to light up?

We will be working scientifically by:

- Identifying and classifying various components of an electrical circuit.
- Creating electrical simple circuits.
- Comparing different electrical conductors and insulators.



Computing

This half term in computing, we will be focussing on programming - 'Hour of code'. During these sessions, we will be exploring fun coding



activities and challenges, Learning the basics of programming concepts and creating simple projects that showcase our new skills.

RE

In RE, will be focusing our learning on Christmas by exploring the question -
'What do Christians mean by peace at Christmas?'



We will discuss how Jesus conveyed messages of peace and how peace is portrayed throughout the Bible. Next, we will explore how the church promotes peace in today's world. This will inspire us to consider ways we can spread peace during Christmas and beyond.

Key dates

Friday 8th November: Non-Uniform Day.

Thursday 21st November: Parent's Evening.

Friday 29th November: Year 4 Bake Sale.

Wednesday 18th December: Christmas Performance in Church.

STEAM

Our STEAM focus this half term will be -
Textiles

Our brief will be -
Design, make and evaluate a pencil case to carry stationary

We will be researching a range of pencil cases and decide what designs we would like to incorporate into our own creations. We will carefully research, plan and create our designs, making sure to meet the success criteria on the brief.

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.

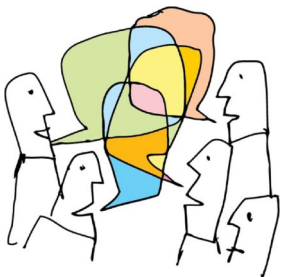
Spelling tests will take place on a **Friday** and will be based on the previous week's homework.



Oracy

We will continue to work on our ability to express ourselves verbally through our next Oracy Day.

This will take place on Friday 13th December and once again, we will welcome our parents and carers into class to participate in our class presentation.



We will use the feedback provided by parents and carers to improve our speaking and listening skills, as well as showcase our geography learning from this half term.

PSHE

Our values theme for this half term is -
'Celebrating our differences'.

We will explore the importance of diversity, learn about different cultures, and appreciate what makes each of us special.

Through activities and discussion, we will create an inclusive environment where everyone is valued.



English

We will continue to read **'Oliver Twist'** - retold by Gill Tavner.



We will begin by writing a newspaper report, then write a free verse poem, and finish with a retell of a part of the story.

In our grammar lessons, we will be focusing on:

- Using subordinating conjunctions throughout our writing.
- Adding figurative language, focusing on similes and metaphors.
- Punctuating direct speech.



Maths

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

Multiplication and Division

- Recalls $X \div$ facts to 12×12 (including $X \div$ by 1 & 0 and $X \div 3$ numbers together).
- Uses short $X \div$ methods.



This half term we will be focusing on our **6** and **7** 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.