

## Year 4 Autumn Newsletter

14th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Our Lady of Victories. I hope you all were able to enjoy your summer holiday and that your children have all enjoyed settling back into school and joining Year 4.

This letter will give you an overview of what the autumn term will look like.

### English

We have begun this term reading 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. This story has been chosen as a whole school text to create a sense of community and connection. We will then move onto our classic novel 'The BFG' by Roald Dahl. We will be using this text to develop our reading comprehension skills and as a stimulus for our descriptive writing. Throughout the term we will be focusing on describing characters and settings and we will link our writing to our History topic, 'The Romans' whenever possible. In our non-fiction work, the children will write informational reports and instructions. They will have a specific grammar lesson every week and the teaching of grammar is always implicit in every lesson.

### Mathematics

Time will be taken, over the autumn term, to refresh our mathematics memories and ensure there are no gaps in the children's learning. We will begin by consolidating their understanding of place value, addition and subtraction and using this to help them solve more difficult problems. The children will then move onto measurement learning about length and perimeter. Our final unit will be multiplication and division. The children will be expected to know all their times tables by the end of the year. I will be giving them frequent tests on their tables, so please do encourage them to practise as much as possible.

### Science

In our first topic 'Animals, including Humans' we will be learning about the human digestive system. The children will be able to identify the different parts of the digestive system and understand their functions. We will be learning about our teeth and the causes of tooth decay. We will finish this unit by studying animal food chains. After half term, our topic will be States of Matter. We will discuss the features of solids, liquids and gases and identify the properties of different materials, before moving on to experiment with reversible and irreversible changes. We will also learn about condensation and evaporation.

### Religious Education

Our first RE topic is 'The Bible'. We will learn several stories from the Old Testament and we will understand how God speaks to us directly in this very special book. In our second topic, 'Trust in God' we will study the stories of Jonah, Zachariah and the Nativity story and we will learn about how, even when it is difficult, we can put our trust in God and how God fulfils His promises.

Refer to the RE letter attached.

### History

Our topic this term is 'The Romans'. We will be learning about the expansion of the Roman Empire; its social structure; Roman entertainment, gladiators, soldiers and Roman gods and goddesses. We will also learn about Queen Boudicca and her revolt against the Romans and understand how different characters in history have different points of view.

### Personal, Social and Health Education

Our main theme this term for PSHE will be healthy eating. We will learn about what foods are healthy and why, recognising opportunities to make our own choices about food, what might influence their choices and the benefits of eating a balanced diet. Children will also design a series of healthy menus and compare these with each other and the food offered in school.

### **Art & Design**

The children will draw Roald Dahl characters in the style of Quentin Blake. They will use a range of mediums to create BFG style giants and they will work collaboratively to paint life-size characters. In DT, we will be learning about Roman artefacts and the children will create their own Roman artefacts. Also in DT, the children will design their own dream jars.

### **Computing**

The children will learn about the importance of e-safety continuously throughout the year. We will begin by using a school program to teach the children how to write their own blogs in our secure ICT suite. The blog they create will link to our learning in history. After half term, we will be looking at how to use the internet safely for research purposes, we will use these skills when researching in our science and history lessons.

### **PE**

Children will have PE every Monday. Children must be dressed ready to go in their PE kits every Monday rather than regular school uniform. This limits personal belongings being brought into the school. The children will be learning bat and ball skills as well as net and wall sports techniques.

### **Homework**

On Fridays, the children will be given spellings and times tables to be learned the following week. Their times table tests will take place on Thursdays and spelling tests on Fridays. Maths and Literacy homework will be set on a Friday and is to be uploaded to Google Classroom before the following Thursday. Extension work will also be available alongside the weekly homework, these tasks are optional.

Please encourage your children to read every night and to record what they have read in their reading records. Once a week I expect to see children reading aloud with an adult or older sibling at home. The adult must record a comment about the child's reading and sign their name. Please take a photo of their entries and upload them to the google classroom assignment before Friday– those who are not recording and uploading their reading will lose a playtime on Friday morning.

I am looking forward to another fantastic year in Year 4 full of fun and engaging learning.

Kind Regards,

Miss Elias