

# YEAR 4 CLASS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to St Mary's, we hope that you and your family enjoyed a peaceful Summer break. The children have settled well into their new class and we are looking forward to our year of learning together. Your support in ensuring that your child completes their Home Learning every week will continue to help your child to make accelerated progress and reach their full potential. We look forward to seeing you at the **Year 4's Class Parents' Meeting** on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 8.45am**.

## Curriculum

We will continue our Maths and Literacy learning by building on the key skills that the children learned last term. Our topics this term will be **Pole to Pole** and **Stormy Weather**. We will be delivering a lot of the learning in Science, History, Geography, Art and Design Technology through our topics, with links to the learning in Literacy and Maths. Below is an outline of what we will be covering in our curriculum.

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| <p>English</p>       | <p>In English, the children will be reading <i>The Ever-Changing Earth</i> by Graeme Baker-Smith, alongside <i>Shackleton's Journey</i>. By the end of the term, the children will be expected to use a variety of noun phrases, use dictionaries effectively, organise paragraphs around key ideas, and select powerful verbs to enhance their writing. Throughout the term, the children will have opportunities to produce a range of different types of writing, including an expedition diary, a letter of advice and a news report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Reading</p>     | <p>This term, our reading journey will take us into the anthology of 'Poems from a Green and Blue Planet'. The children will be working on answering different types of questions about what they have read. Children will build their fluency and confidence as readers, while developing their comprehension and learning to think carefully about, discuss and respond to the texts they that they have read. <b>Please ensure that you hear your child read every day and update their Reading Record.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Maths</p>       | <p>This half term we will be focusing on Place Value, Addition and Subtraction. We will be learning how to partition four-digit numbers, place them on a number line and round them to the nearest 10 or 100. We will review column addition and subtraction. In the second half of the term, we will be learning about Area, Multiplication and Division. By the end of the term, the children will be expected to calculate the area of a shape and to solve problems using their 6 and 7 times table facts. We will be launching our Times Table challenge before half-term, so please practice your multiplication tables at home.</p>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>RE</p>          | <p>In RE, we will be learning about Christianity, in our unit 'What is the story?' The children will learn about the Bible and where the stories that they know fit. They will make links between the 'Big story' and some things that Christians believe.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Topic</p>        | <p>In this topic pupils will explore the globe from pole to pole, revising their knowledge of countries, continents, and oceans in Geography. They will learn the position and significance of global features including latitude and longitude, the equator, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and the North and South Poles. In History, they will research some of the famous explorers who have tried to reach the North and South Poles including Ernest Shackleton and Matthew Henson. They will compare the resources and equipment used by Polar explorers in the 19th and early 20th centuries with modern expeditions today. In Science, we will experiment with magnets and magnetic materials and explore their properties. Pupils will find out which magnet is the strongest, using a fair test.</p> |
| <p>Values</p>      | <p>We will be focusing on the whole school values of <b>Respect</b> and <b>Peace</b>. We will be exploring these values throughout this term and children will have the opportunity to learn how these values can be displayed, referring to examples from Bible stories and influential figures.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Comp Uting</p>  | <p>In Computing, we will be applying our knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. We will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and we will explore the World Wide Web in order to learn about who owns content</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|                                                                                         | and what they can access, add, and create. Finally, we will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.                                 |
| Music  | The children will learn how to play the trumpet.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PSHE   | We will be following the Jigsaw scheme of work in our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). This term we will be learning about 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Differences'.                                |
| MFL    | We will be studying French as our Modern Foreign Language (MFL). This term we will be learning to introduce ourselves, say what we can do and we will develop a wider appreciation for the countries where French is spoken. |

### Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2026

- Trip to the Maritime museum-TBA
- September – we are welcoming any donations for our annual Harvest collection, please donate any non-perishable food items (tins, jars and packets) to support those most in need
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – Parents' welcome meeting with your child's class teacher
- Tue 29<sup>th</sup> September – **SCHOOL PHOTOS**
- Wed 30<sup>th</sup> September 9AM – Harvest worship in St Mary's Church
- **Mon 19<sup>th</sup> October – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> October – HALF TERM**
- Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> November 8:45AM – Friends of St Mary's AGM and planning for the Christmas Fayre
- Thu 12<sup>th</sup> November – PARENTS EVENING
- Fri 13<sup>th</sup> November 8:45AM – Friends of St Mary's Present Wrapping
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> November 3:10PM – Christmas Fayre
- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> December – Pantomime at Greenwich Theatre
- Tue 15<sup>th</sup> December 2:00PM – Candlelit Service in St Mary's Church
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December – 1:00PM – End of Autumn Term
- Tue 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Children return to school for the Spring Term

### Key Reminders

- Please be on time at the beginning (8:40) and end (3:10) of the school day
- Please ring the school office if you have arranged for a new person to collect your child



### PE

Please note that the children must bring the correct PE kit (plain navy blue/black jogging bottoms, plain white t-shirt and plain black plimsolls/trainers) to every PE lesson. Our PE coach, Mr Tientcheu, will lead the children in the PE curriculum alongside their teacher. **PE lessons will be on Thursday.**



### Jewellery

We advise that the children do not wear **any** jewellery to school although plain stud earrings are acceptable. Please bear in mind that if your child is wearing earrings they need to be able to remove them themselves for PE lessons.

### Clothing

Please make sure that all of your child's items of clothing are clearly labelled with their names. This applies to all items of school uniform, PE kit and coats. School shoes should be plain and black.

### Home Learning

Home Learning will be set on Friday and should be completed by Tuesday. In addition to the learning set, your children should be regularly practicing their times tables, spellings and reading every day.

**There is a clear expectation that every child fully completes their Home Learning every week and we will be keeping a record and contacting parents where this is not the case.**

### **Reading**

It is vital that your child reads to you every day. Please complete their reading journal and ensure that they bring it into school **daily**. Your child will be given books, which we will aim to change on a weekly basis. If you have any concerns or would like some support with this, then please contact the school.

**Appointments** - If you have any queries or wish to make an appointment, please ring the School office on 0208 6902613 or email [admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)

We greatly value your support with your child's learning.

Miss Penn (Class Teacher)    Ms Herbert (Teaching Assistant)