



## 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!

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to this term and we are really looking forward to learning lots of new things this year!



### Computing

This half term in computing, we will be developing our **multimedia skills**.

The children will work in small groups to prepare, film and edit short clips as a creative way of sharing their learning.

The children will then have an opportunity to present their short films to the class and evaluate the effectiveness of their work.

### Home Reading

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

It is expected that children read at home every evening, for a minimum of **20 minutes** and make a record of this in their yellow reading journals—these will be checked daily, so it is important that your child brings this to school everyday.



### 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.



### Adults working in Year 4

Miss Lawrence  
Miss Barrett

### Humanities



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

We will be diving into history and exploring what life was like for children during the Victorian era.

We will begin by investigating Victorian Hackney and identifying the similarities and differences between then and now. In addition, we will be learning about how schools, health, medicine and religious beliefs affected children during the Victorian period.

Using a range of sources, we will also have the opportunity to conduct some research on Victorian Workhouses and debate whether they were safe for children.

## Science

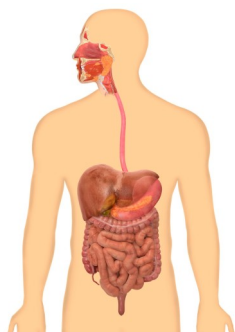
In science, our topic is '**Animals including Humans**'.

We will be building on our prior knowledge about the human body from Year 3, by learning about the specific functions of each part of the digestive system. To begin, we will learn about how enzymes in our saliva support the body in breaking down food before moving on to investigate the functions and roles of different types of teeth and organs.

By the end of the unit, we will be applying our knowledge of food cycles to help us analyse food chains.

Throughout this unit, we will 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



## PE

PE will take place every **Thursday**.

The focus for this half term is: **exploring movement**. It is essential that your child has the correct PE uniform for each lesson.



## RE and Values

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 values 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.

## English

### OLIVER TWIST

CHARLES DICKENS



Retold by Gill Taver  
Illustrated by Karen Donnelly

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

We will be writing detailed instructions about how to successfully pick-a-pocket, just like Oliver does in the story. Our focus for this writing unit is to use a range of imperative verbs and time conjunctions.

Later in the term, we will also be writing character descriptions based on our favourite character from the story. We will analyse extracts to see how different word types are used to build powerful descriptions.

In grammar lessons, we will be focusing on:

- Identifying the subject, object and verb in a sentence
- 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

### Addition & Subtraction

- + - up to 10,000 with regrouping (using the column method)
- + - nearest multiple of 10, 100 or 1000 and adjust



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 will be stuck inside the cover of homework books.