

Year 4 Half Termly Letter – Spring 1 2025

Dear Parents,

This is an outline of the subjects we will be covering during this half term:

Spring 1	<p>Key Question: Why are fireworks so spectacular? Great Work: We will be creating our own firework-themed cushion and sharing them with Year 3.</p>
History	<p>In history, we will be answering the question: What were the achievements of the earliest civilizations? We will be learning about three early civilizations: Indus Valley, Sumer and Shang Dynasty China. After learning about each civilization, we will be comparing them to each other and Ancient Egypt. Key vocabulary: <i>early civilizations, Indus Valley, Summer, Shang Dynasty China</i></p>
Science	<p>In science, we will be studying sound. We will identify how sounds are made and recognise that sound vibrations travel through a medium, to the ear. We will also find patterns between pitch and volume and recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the source increases. Key vocabulary: <i>pitch, sound, vibration, amplitude, volume, frequency and insulators</i></p>
Maths	<p>In maths, we will continue our unit on multiplication and division. We will learn about factor pairs, multiplying and dividing by 100 and written methods to multiply and divide a 2-digit and 3-digit number by a 1-digit number. Next, we will move on to measurement, focusing on length and perimeter. We will learn how to measure in kilometres and metres, work out equivalent lengths and find the perimeter of rectilinear shapes. Times tables will continue to be practised regularly. Key vocabulary: <i>multiplication, division, factor pairs, column method, length, perimeter</i></p>
English	<p>In English, we will be studying a new text called, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. Using this text, we will write our own narratives which will include an interesting plot, a detailed character and setting description. Next, we will create our own firework-themed poems using metaphors. Key vocabulary: <i>fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, inverted commas, paragraphs, metaphors, pronouns, possessive apostrophes</i></p>
PE	<p>Indoor – In yoga, we will learn poses and techniques to build strength, flexibility and balance. Outdoor – In hockey, we will learn to keep possession of the ball, use simple attacking tactics, learn to send and receive as well as dribble a ball. We will begin to think about defending skills. We will also encourage the children to think about skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition. PE Days: 4H and 4W: Monday and Thursday 4M: Thursday and Friday</p>
RE	<p>How do Hindus worship? This term, our focus will be on Hinduism. We will look at the many images of God as well as the importance of the Aum symbol. We will then look at how Hindus worship at home and at the Mandir. Finally, we will look at Hindu pilgrimage. Key vocabulary: Hinduism, Aum, Pilgrimage, Mandir.</p>
Computing	<p>Programmers: The children will be creating programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. Key vocabulary: command, programming, algorithm, pattern.</p>
Art	<p>In art, we will be focusing on printing. We will be increasing our knowledge of relief printing using a styrofoam printing plate. We will look at the work of surface pattern designer Rachel Parker and learn how to create a repeated pattern. We will continue to look at colour theory and explore using more than one colour in their print. Key vocabulary: printing, patterns, styrofoam, colour theory.</p>
D&T	<p>In Design & Technology, we will investigate, design and make our own cushion. We will learn a range of sewing techniques and use these to create and decorate our final product. Key vocabulary: running stitch, back stitch, embroidery.</p>
Music	<p>In music, we will be learning about the feature of pop music with a focus on the song "Blackbird" by The Beatles. Each week, we will listen to and appraise a song by the group, while learning to sing the focus song and play along with the glockenspiels. Key vocabulary: performance, style, pop music.</p>
PSHE/ RSE	<p>Relationships and Sex Education: Caring and Responsibility. This topic explores our rights and our responsibilities, The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and different family roles and responsibilities. PATHS: We will learn how to make good decisions and how to be responsible and care for others.</p>
Key dates	<p>Dates for your diary Tuesday 21st January - 4M Class Assembly Thursday 23rd January - 380th Anniversary of St Mary's School (video recording will be sent to parents).</p>

Yours sincerely,
Miss McKenzie (4M), Mr Harvey (4H) and Miss Wallington (4W)