



St. John's School

Hogwarts Class Newsletter

Welcome back to a new school year!

Welcome to Year 4! The class team this year is: Miss Atkinson (Class Teacher), Miss Batten-Jones and Mrs Ray. As always, our team are here to support you and your child as much as possible. We will be reinforcing our three school rules: be ready, be responsible and be respectful within our classroom environment. Year 4 is a big step from Year 3, and comes with its own set of challenges. Your child will need time to adjust to the new routines and expectations for this upcoming year.

This term...

Our topic this term is called '**Walk like an Egyptian**'. This is a History based topic that will see your children learn about the Egyptian. Alongside this, the children will be exploring states of matter and the digestive system within Science. In Geography we will be exploring rivers and recapping the water cycle, as well as using maps and atlases to locate and describe countries. Creatively, the children will be exploring printing in Art and cranes in DT. In our RE, we use the 'Emmanuel Project' scheme of learning. Our first unit is Christianity, focussing on the question "How do Christians show that reconciliation with God and other people is important?".

How you can help at home...

A new classroom, new expectations, new routines – all of which may cause a few anxieties. My team and I will do everything we can to help your child settle in well and adapt to the new term. You can help us to make the transition as easy and comfortable as possible for your child in the following ways...

Sleep – This is something that is mentioned every year. Children need plenty of sleep, preceded by a quiet and calm atmosphere, without any electronic gadgets. This helps set them up for the day ahead.

Independence- One expectation we have as the children progress through Key Stage 2 is to increase independence. Therefore, it is important to start giving your children more responsibility, this could be by encouraging your children to get their own belongings ready for each school day.

Please note that children do not need to bring pencil cases or any other stationary into school. We provide all they need and often pencil cases can become a source of distraction and argument! We are also asking that children avoid bringing in unnecessary items such as fidget toys. Children should arrive at school with their coat, book bag and lunch, which they then can place into their lockers.

Home learning -Try to seize any small pockets of time for **spellings, times tables practice or reading**. A little and often is so much better than one long session and can hopefully be worked easily around normal family routines – whatever works best for you. The children will receive their normal weekly homework of spellings and if any other pieces of homework are given these will be clearly written in their home reading logs. Please Let me know if there are any issues with the level of work your child is given.

Timetable

- Please be aware, due to the nature of all that goes on at a busy primary school, timetables may change!
- PE will be on Friday afternoon. Please ensure your child comes in wearing their PE kit on PE days. This kit must be black jogging bottoms/ shorts, usual school shirts or team-coloured T-shirt and trainers.
- The children will have forest school on a Tuesday afternoon for the first half-term. Your children will need to make sure they bring in appropriate clothing and footwear to change into at lunch time.
- English has been split into reading and writing sessions. These sessions will expose your children to a range of literature that sparks their imagination and builds upon pre-existing knowledge.
- Maths is taught daily, and this year we will be focusing a lot on the children's times table knowledge. We aim to keep these lessons practical, allowing the children to explore number and place value in a stimulating way.

Remember...

Homework will be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Friday. Your children should have their logins in their reading logs.

Home Learning Projects

Have a go at one of these activities.....

1. Write a story, but start at the back of a book- this is how the Egyptians used to write.
2. Create a Papier-mâché of an Egyptian cat.
3. Draw a picture of what you would look like if you were to live in ancient Egypt.
4. Make a pyramid out of Lego or cardboard boxes.
5. Explore the Ancient Egyptian Number system and try writing a few numbers of your own.
6. Try mummifying a tomato using salt and bicarbonate of soda or epsom salts.