

YEAR 4 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023



‘I AM WHO I AM’

Exodus 3:14

A warm welcome to both Year 4 and parents alike! I am very much looking forward to a term full of joyful learning. The children will have many opportunities for learning in the classroom and beyond in the next few months running up to Christmas. The children have already been a joy to work with and I have every confidence the Autumn term will be a chance to create memories and learn skills that will stay with them as they move through school. This year's annual theme at BRW is '**I Am Who I Am**' (Exodus 3:14). The children are encouraged to take pride in who they are and meditate on God as the Great 'I Am'. We will look to recognise the 'Great I Am' in all of us as Christ works through every child and adult in the school.

In RE, the children's first topic will be 'People', which encourages us to explore the importance of family and the significance of family in the Church and in scripture. We also learn about important people in the Bible including Abraham, and what it means to trust in God as he did. After this, we will have two more topics in 'Belonging' and 'Loving'. Through these topics, we will prepare for Jesus' coming and consider what opportunities Advent gives us for reflection and exploring our faith. We will also spend some time learning about Judaism and their traditions, and how Christianity stems from the religion.

In English we will be delving into Roald Dahl's 'The Witches', with opportunities for exploring techniques for describing villains in stories and writing in the style of the author. The children are already impressing me with their wonderful use of descriptive vocabulary and their creativity. We will continue to expand our vocabulary and navigate language through spellings and learning new words regularly.

Mathematics will see us focused this term on Addition, Subtraction and fluency with numbers. In the lead up to Christmas, we will move on to Division and Multiplication. All units will provide problem solving opportunities and encourage children to use mathematical language to explain their answers both verbally and through their written work.

Our first topic will focus on the Dark Ages, with a Geography focus on settlements that considers local geography exploring Clifton Village (with a year 3/4 visit pencilled in sometime after October half term). We will also be finding out why the Anglo-Saxons decided to settle in the British Isles, consolidating this learning in Computing with the use of OS maps. Our History focus will revolve around the Anglo-Saxons, giving the children the opportunity to explore what life was like for people in Britain well over 1000 years ago. We will learn about key figures from the time, such as Alfred the Great.

In Science, we will be learning all about electricity and light, tying these topics together with a DT project in which the children will design and assemble their own torches. We will be working scientifically to explore the behaviour of circuits and how light travels. In Art, we will be exploring the use of colour and pattern, with Gustav Klimt as our focus artist. His work will inspire the children to create their own artwork drawing upon his approach.

In PE, the children have brilliant opportunities this term for varied and beneficial learning. Year 4 will have Swimming, Dance and Fundamentals. Children will learn essential skills in Fundamentals that will inform their approach and expand their skill set in future PE units. PE days are currently Monday, Wednesday and Friday (swimming on Mondays until 2/10/23).

In French lessons, children will be learning language skills relating to food (which is always useful!), family and friends.

On a weekly basis Year 4 will have music lessons with the opportunity to play instruments, with a view to build to a performance towards the end of term. We also have the pleasure of the Diocesan-endorsed choral music singing lessons in which children will develop their singing skills, whilst taking part in classic hymns, as well as singing in Latin! Weekly hymn practices shall continue ahead of whole school Masses.

Kind regards,

Mr. Penna

How you can help:

You can check homework reminders, which will be shared in children's diaries on a weekly basis, starting soon. Homework will aim to consolidate learning in class and also provide opportunities for project work with a view to display and celebrate creations throughout the year!

The children will receive logins for Times Tables Rock Stars and NumBots and can use Mathletics alongside this to practise their times tables. Encouraging regular use of these will help your children master recall of their times tables facts up to 12x12

Support your children in ensuring they are engaging in their expected daily home reading during the week, and ask them questions about what they are reading.

Correct PE kits are needed in school every day (black shorts, white t-shirt and black trainers or plimsolls).

Stay in the know by following our Twitter page @BRWSchool. We also have a facebook page!

Check the class page on the school website for updates and blog posts

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 11th Sept: STEM Visitor

SWIMMING (then every Monday until 2nd Oct)

Thursday 21st Sept. 2pm Welcome Mass

Wednesday 4th Oct. 11am Francis of Assisi

Mass at Corpus Christi Church

Tuesday 10th Oct. World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 17th Oct. Parents' Consultations

4.00pm— 7.00pm

Wednesday 18th Oct. Parents' Consultations

1:30pm—3.30pm

Thursday 19th Oct. Whole School

Harvest Mass 2.00pm

Half Term: 23rd Oct—3rd Nov

Monday 6th Nov. INSET Day

Friday 24th Nov. World Youth Day

Tuesday 19th Dec. Christmas Jumper Day and

Carols around the tree

Thursday 21st Dec. 2:00pm Advent Mass

Last Day of Term: Friday 22nd Dec

Spring Term: Thursday 4th January 2024