

YEAR 4 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2024



Stewards of the Earth; Guardians of God's Gift

Genesis 2:15

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. So far the children have 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 **'Stewards of the Earth; Guardians of God's Gift' (Genesis 2:15)**. The children are encouraged to think about their world and their environment, as well as the gifts God has given them. Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, the children have all made stewardship pledges and aim to live these out throughout the year.

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 'Called' and 'Gifts'. 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. We will continue to expand our vocabulary and navigate language through spellings and learning new words regularly. The children will also be writing instructional texts based on the potion in the book! We will also be exploring **'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'** later in the term.

Mathematics will see us focused this term on Place Value, 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 Stone Age, with a Geography focus on changes in the UK over time from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We will be studying early farming in the Stone Age and learning about the lives of humans living in this time. We will also be going on a Stone Age themed adventure to Brackenhurst on 16th September! Our topic work will link very nicely to our Stewardship theme.

In Science, we will be learning all about Rocks and Fossils. We will be working scientifically to explore how fossils are made, soils are formed and categorise the different types of rocks. In Art, we will be exploring Cave Art, linking nicely to our Stone Age topic, and linking this to the modern day artist, Banksy. The children will take inspiration from these studies to create their own artwork!

In PE, the children have brilliant opportunities this term for varied and beneficial learning. Year 4 will have Swimming, Dance and Fitness units. Children will learn essential skills in fitness that will inform their approach and expand their skill set in future PE units. PE days are currently Wednesday and Friday (**swimming on Tuesdays after October half term**).

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th Sept Visit to Brackenhurst

18th Sept 2pm: Welcome Mass

8th and 9th Oct: Parents'

Consultations

10th October : World Mental Health
Day

16th October 2pm: Harvest Mass

21st Oct-1st Nov: Half term

4th Nov: Inset Day

13th Nov: Odd Socks Day

15th Nov, 9:15am: Year 4 Assembly

3rd December: Advent Celebration

15th December: Christmas Dinner

17th December: Christmas Jumper
Day & Carols around the Tree

20th December: Last day of Term

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