

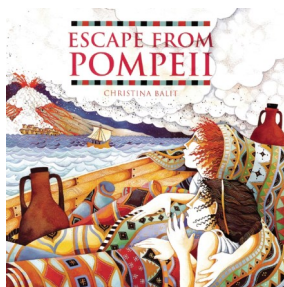
TERMTalk

CURRICULUM NEWS
FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY
Issued termly Autumn Term Year 4 2020

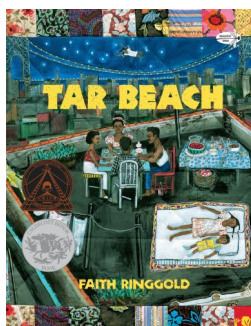


English

This term the children will be studying three different books. We will begin the term with 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit which is a historical fiction linking to our history topic of the Romans. By the end of the topic children will be creating their own historical fictional stories.



In October, for black history month we will be reading a book called 'Tar beach' by Faith Ringgold which explores themes of freedom. Children will be recreating the text in script format and using drama and role play to bring their stories to life.



During the second half of the term learning will centre around the book 'Winter's Child'. Emphasis will be put on the children being able to plan how to write longer pieces of writing, using their imagination to create original plots and broadening their use of a wide range of interesting, sophisticated, descriptive vocabulary.



Maths

This term the children will follow the **National Curriculum** for maths. The main emphasis for the first half term is still **place value, ordering and rounding** and working with **numbers up to 10,000**. We will also consolidate our understanding of the **relationship** between **addition and subtraction, doubling and finding patterns**. There will be also be plenty of revision of the **mental methods of the four rules of number**.

The children will be checking their answers by using **inverse operations** e.g. subtracting to check addition and multiplying to check division work. As the term goes on children will also be working with statistics, and revising **mental and written methods of multiplication and division**. In the topic of measures, they will be expected to know how to measure and use units of length, weight, capacity money and time and apply this when solving "real life" problems.



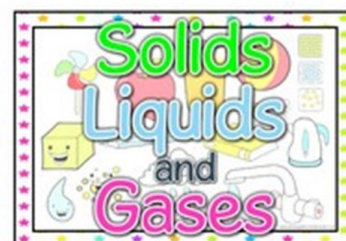
Southwark have produced a VERY useful guide for ALL parents to help their children with Maths. You can find it on the school's website. It is filled with helpful advice for you, as well as information about how Maths is taught at St. Joseph's.

Science

Our first Science topic for year 4 will be **Living Things and their Habitats**. Through **discussion and investigation** we will discover what an **organism** is and where they live. We will find out how different **climates, other plant life and environmental changes** affect the **life style and evolution** of plants and animals. The children will explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. The children will also be undertaking cross curricular work, linked with the English non-fiction topic about endangered animals.



During the second part of the term, children will be studying the **States of matter**. They will be finding out about the properties of the three different states of matter: **solids, liquids & gases**. Children will investigate and carry out experiments as well as learn how to use **thermometers** and plan enquiries about matter **changing from one state to another**.

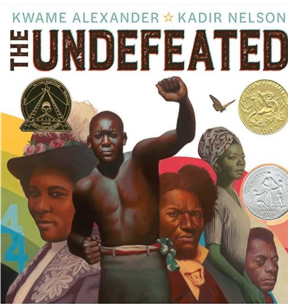


OTHER SUBJECTS

Geography: This half term children will be learning about our active planet. They will complete a series of lessons about earthquakes and volcanoes in order to understand more about the structure of the earth. Pupils will learn the importance of plate tectonics in forming volcanoes as well as the difference between constructive, destructive and transform plate boundaries. Using diagrams they will name and locate the key features of a volcano. Year 4s will understand that volcanoes come in many shapes and sizes, but primarily occur at the boundary between tectonic plates



History: October is **Black History month** and



during this period we will be looking at a narrative poem **'The undefeated'** that highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery and the perseverance of some of the worlds greatest heroes and heroines.

After half term we will be studying **Roman Britain**. We will begin by investigating the Celts, who lived in Britain over 2000 years ago. The children will learn about **where they lived, what they ate and what they spent their time doing**. Then we will learn about the growth of the **Roman Empire** and contrast the Roman way of life with that of the Celts. We will discover **when and why the Roman invaded Britain**, and find out about the emperors **Julius Caesar and Claudius**. Finally the children will **study** how the Roman settlers lived in Britain. We will find out how they built their roads and cities, how they made and decorated luxurious villas, what they ate and which gods they believed in.

Art & Design

Much of our work this term will be based around our topics in English, History and Maths.

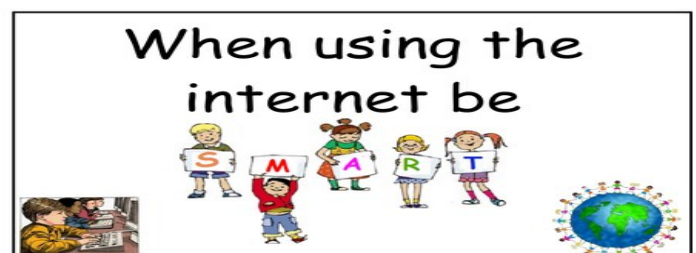
As part of the children's work on 2D and 3D shapes this term, they will be looking at artwork from painter and musician Kandinski. They will be using sketching and layering to create their own pieces of art work using only shapes. Through our English topic books children will be creating a variety of different art pieces. **Escape from Pompeii** will find the children working 3D volcano models and staging our own eruptions. Taking inspiration from the illustrations of **Tar Beach** we will also be sewing our own year 4 quilt like art piece. They will need to use their fine motor skills in order to master different types of stitches including running stitch and a whip stitch. Finally, as part of **Winters child** we will be creating scenes from nature using a variety of techniques including printing and collage to create scenes from nature.



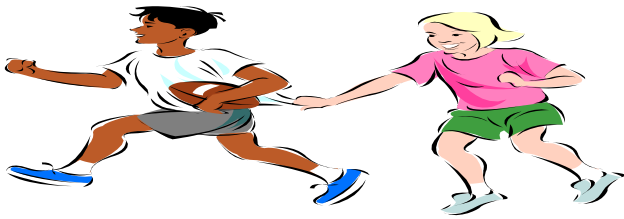
Computing: During the first half of this term, the children will, be learning about **E-SAFETY** and how to use the internet and social media safely. It is very important that you support your child and there is a wealth of information for you to read about this topic on our school's website

www.stjosephs.southwark.sch.uk

Throughout the second half term the children will be working on the unit **"Animations"**. They will be learning how simple stop animations work, and creating their own basic animations and learning to edit them.



MORE SUBJECTS



P.E. & Games

In the first half term children will be taking swimming lessons at our local leisure center. They will be led by the trained staff thereto learn or improve on their swimming skills.

In **Games**, the children will revise and practice a wider range of **football skills** with the emphasis being on greater **control of the ball and positioning of feet**, as well as how to pass and shoot with greater accuracy. They will also be learning to play a variety of net games and improving their hand eye co-ordination while playing racket games.

Children will also be taking part in a mile run every Thursday morning led by the class teacher in an effort to keep our school active!

 ★ **Please note:** This term our P.E. lesson are on **Thursday**.
 ★ Please ensure that your child wears their P.E. kit to school on this day.
 ★ **Correct PE kit:** Trainers or plimsolls **not fashion trainers**, must be worn at all times. A plain white T-shirt and navy blue shorts. A plain navy blue or black tracksuit may be worn for outdoor games during winter.

Homework

Homework tasks are given to consolidate your child's learning. It is **essential** that all children are given support with all their homework; this includes learning to spell the words on their weekly spelling list

Tasks may also be set online on platforms such as **My Maths, ttrackstars or SPAG.com**. This year we will also begin to use google classrooms. Your child will soon be issued with a login and password with which to access it.

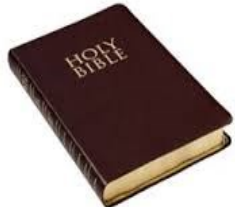
Parents are expected to hear their child read every evening.

Homework will be given out on a Friday and will be expected to be returned by Monday. We will be most grateful if you could supervise your child as they complete their work.

Thank you.

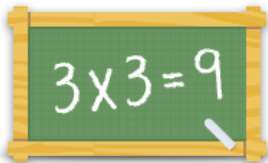
R.E.

In the first half term we will study the topics of **The Bible** in order to give children a better understanding of the Christian Holy book. Some other topics we will cover this term include **Trust in God**, and in the second half term, **Jesus the teacher**. We will be reading and discussing the stories and lessons behind a variety of stories and parables and what we can learn from them.



We will also be continuing with collective worship.

Until December this year it is still the **year of St. Joseph** and we will be continuing to pay homage to our schools patron saint.



Times tables

By the end of year 4 children will require to sit a times tables test. This is statutory and must be completed by all year 4 children in the country. Please make sure you are encouraging your children to learn their times tables.