



St Michael & All Angels

Catholic Primary School

New Hey Road, Upton, Wirral, CH49 5LE

Headteacher: Mrs S Ralph

Twitter: @smaaaweb, @smaaanews

Tel 0151 677 4088

Fax 0151 677 0885

Absence Line 07592020601

www.smaaawirral.com

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Hello,

I would like to start by saying how beautifully the children have settled in to Year 4. Despite the recent situation and the fact they were absent from school for such a long time, I have been incredibly impressed with their enthusiasm to be back in the classroom and their attitude to learning. They are an absolute pleasure to be with.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know a little about what we will be doing this autumn term. The children have already made a start on our first English text of the year, *The Whale* by Vita Murrow. Following the 'Read to Write' scheme, we have been busy analysing clues, and responding to new words, phrases and pictures from the book. In Guided Reading we are reading the action-packed children's thriller *Krinklekrax* by Philip Ridley.

In Maths we always begin the autumn term with Place Value and in Year 4 the children are taught in two groups which allows smaller more focused teaching. At the end of Year 4 there is now a statutory government multiplication tables check, which determines whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently. We will continue to do lots of work in school on times tables, but it is also an area where families can help at home.

In the autumn term the children will reflect on the Bible in RE and this year will begin to plan their own collective worship sessions - really lovely to see.

Our History topic which will keep us busy for the term is the Romans. In Science we have begun to explore 'States of Matter' and will be encouraging the children to work scientifically for example setting up simple practical enquiries, making careful observations and reporting on findings.

In Year 4 we are very lucky to have a specialist music teacher, Mr Goodwin, who will teach the class how to play the guitar. And similarly in Spanish Mr Whalley comes in to teach language skills.

As mentioned previously, Year 4 PE is on a Wednesday afternoon, and at present we are asking children to come into school in their PE kit (school colours with a white t-shirt). Our autumn PE curriculum includes invasion games, basketball, tag rugby and dance. At the moment we are unable to go swimming, although we are hopeful this will be able to start at some stage in the year.

Homework is given out on Friday and includes maths, English and also spellings. The work is always linked to what we have been doing in class and should never be confusing, but should strengthen what has already been learnt. In Year 4 homework is to be given in on the following Monday, with spellings learnt for a test the following Friday. We also encourage the children to read daily and log any comments in their reading diary.

If you have any comments, queries or need to get in touch, please do so, either via Seesaw or you can speak to me at the end of the school day. Thank you for your support so far, I look forward to meeting you all in time.

Mrs Lea (and Mrs McKee, our class TA)