



**Ely St Mary's C of E Junior School**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY! WELCOME BACK TO YEARS 3 AND 4**

We hope that you had a well-earned break over Christmas and managed to spend time with your families. The Year 3 and 4 teams were excited to welcome pupils back last week to begin what is always an action-packed and fun-filled term. Here are a few reminders of routines and a brief outline of what we are planning.

### **Year 3 and 4**

#### **PE/Games:**

Year 3 and Year 4 PE lessons will continue to be taught on Mondays and children are expected to come to school already wearing their PE kit. Whilst the children will not be changing during the day, should the weather be unfavourable we would suggest the children bring in a spare jumper etc as required. Please ensure that your child has a clean, named drinks bottle every day in school, not just on PE days.

#### **Year 3 Curriculum**

In the Spring term, we go 'BIG'. In Geography, we look at some of the biggest places on Earth (continents, oceans and countries in Europe) and we use big cats as inspiration for some of our non-fiction writing. We also zoom in on the world around us, exploring plants and pollination. Later in the term, we will be learning about the kings and queens of England. In RE, we are learning about the gospels and the Easter story.

This term, our school will begin working towards their first CREST awards in Science. The CREST award is a nationally recognised accreditation scheme for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) project work and we have some exciting investigations and problem-solving challenges lined up! This initiative forms part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations, with more information about celebratory events to follow in due course as plans are finalised.

Our texts for Spring 2 inspire some great writing. We continue with our 'BIG' theme as we read and write about Jack and the Beanstalk and explore other traditional tales. We are enjoying our new music scheme 'Charanga' and in Spring 2, we will be exploring rhythm and musical notation with the aim of creating our own compositions.

This term, we be exploring the artwork of Georgia O'Keefe and the illustrator Jackie Morris as we create our own 'big artwork' based on plants and animals. In Computing, we will be creating our own music using an ilearn2 program. For more information, please refer to the Year 3 curriculum Autumn overview below.

#### **Learning, reading books, spellings and home learning**

The 'basics' of spelling, reading and times tables and this will remain a focus during the Spring term. We have been working hard learning our phonics rules and applying them in our reading and writing. All pupils have been given access to Spelling Shed to reinforce this learning, and we will continue to monitor the children's usage over the coming months.

We have chosen some great texts to read together in class this term. Children participate in whole-class guided reading, where we enjoy learning to read aloud with confidence and talk about tricky words. They also take part in small group phonics reading sessions. Children are expected to read at home on a daily basis with your support or independently and, in class, they are supported to complete a short comprehension quiz on each book they read. The Year 3 team are always happy to recommend books for you to borrow and enjoy reading at home. We have been impressed with the children's progress in learning their times tables this term. TTRockstars is a great motivator for many of our pupils and it has been lovely to see them engage in the challenges we have set so far.

## Year 4 Curriculum

In the Spring term, we meet our first History topic – The Romans. We will begin with the Roman invasions of Britain and then look at what they left behind. Our next Geography topic is volcanoes, which links well with one of our class texts for the term – Escape from Pompeii. We explore how volcanoes are formed and what it is like to live in volcanic areas. It has been lovely to use our new Art and Design hub and STEM suite this year. Having dedicated areas means that we have the space and resources to get really creative. During Spring 1, we will be designing and creating our own mosaics, and in RE we will be learning about the messages of the gospels.

This term, Year 4 will also begin working towards their first CREST awards in Science. Look out for more details on our investigations on Class Dojo.

Later in the term, we will be studying the ancient Maya civilisation. Our texts for Spring 2 inspire some fantastic mystery writing and allow the children to let their imaginations run wild. We are enjoying our new music scheme 'Charanga' and in Spring 2, we will be exploring rhythm and musical notation with the aim of creating our own compositions. We will be looking at the work of Anthony Gormley in later in the term and will be making use of the Art and Design hub to produce some clay figures based on his work.

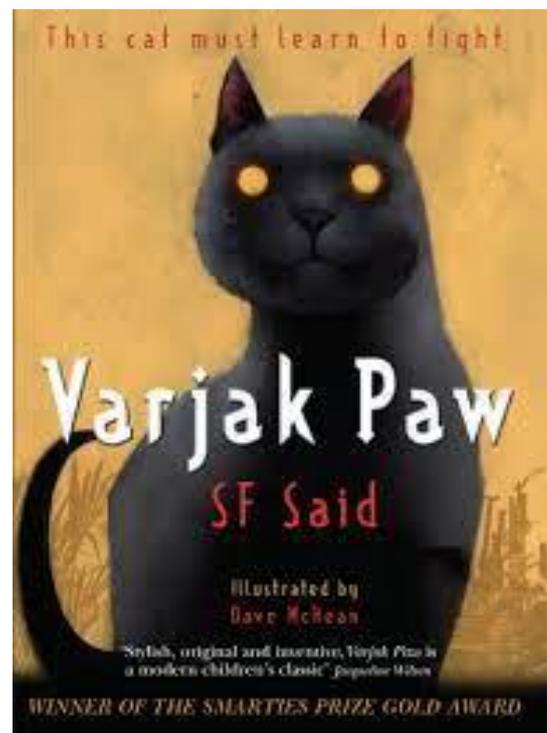
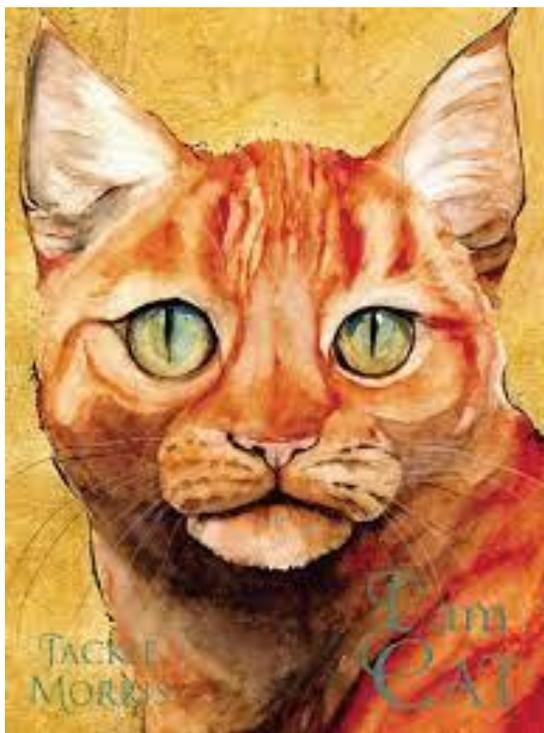
For more information, please refer to the Year 4 curriculum Autumn overview below.

## Learning, reading books, spellings and home learning

We continue to set weekly spellings on Spelling Shed and pupils are tested on their spellings once a week. All Year 4 pupils will be taking part in the national multiplication tables check week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> June. The check takes place on-line and tests children's recall of all their times tables. To make sure they are familiar with the format, children have been using a replica of the test hosted on the Maths Frame website at [mathsframe.co.uk](http://mathsframe.co.uk). There is no charge to use this website if you want to try it out at home. We will also continue to set times tables challenges on TT Rockstars.

Children take part in whole-class guided reading, where we enjoy reading aloud with confidence and discussing our books in depth. Classrooms are regularly re-stocked with a range of high-quality texts which are sent home each night. Children are expected to read on a daily basis and complete a short comprehension quiz on each book they complete. In Year 4, we want children to share our love of reading and the Year 4 staff are always happy to make book recommendations.

All Year 3 and 4 staff check their Class Dojo regularly so please do get in touch with us if you have any questions or would like to share any other information about your children's learning.



YEAR 3 SPRING CURRICULUM	Spring 1	Spring 2
	<b><u>BIG</u></b>	<b><u>BIG</u></b>
<b>As a Reader and Writer...</b>  <b>(See also year group reading passport)</b>	Jack and the Beanstalk – traditional tale Jack and the Baked Bean Stalk – Colin Stimpson	I am Cat – Jackie Morris
	<b><u>Entertain</u></b> Re-telling a traditional term. Narrative - our own version of Jack and the Beanstalk.	<b><u>Inform</u></b> Non-fiction – a journal of a safari trip <b><u>Entertain</u></b> Reporting writing – based on 'I am Cat'
<b>As a Mathematician ...</b>	<b>Number:</b> Multiplication and Division <b>Measurement:</b> Area	<b>Number:</b> Fractions <b>Measurement:</b> Length and Perimeter
<b>As a Geographer ...</b>	Continents and Oceans <b>KQ: Where are some of the biggest places on Earth?</b>	
<b>As a Historian ...</b>		Kings and Queens <b>KQ: Who is Britain's greatest monarch?</b>
<b>As a Scientist ...</b>	Plants <b>KQ: What makes plants grow well?</b>	Plants <b>KQ: How do plants reproduce?</b>
<b>As a Technologist</b>	<b>Online Safety</b> Online Relationships <b>Computing</b> Music Creation	<b>Online Safety</b> Online Reputation <b>Computing</b> Comic Creation
<b>As a Musician ...</b>	Singing Bob Marley – 3 little birds	Charanga music scheme – Dragon Song Exploring rhythm and musical notation
<b>As an Artist ...</b>	Flowers <b>Artists:</b> Art based on the work of Georgia O'Keefe	Big Cat Pictures <b>Artist:</b> Based on the work of Jackie Morris
<b>As a Linguist ...</b>	<b>French:</b> Animals and Playground Games	
<b>As a global citizen... RE</b>	Gospels: <b>How do the teachings of Jesus guide Christians today?</b>	Salvation: <b>Why do Christians use Good Friday to describe the day Jesus died?</b>
<b>PSHE</b>	Diversity and Communities	Drug Education

YEAR 4 SPRING CURRICULUM	Spring 1	Spring 2
	<b>The Roman Invasion</b>	<b>Mysteries</b>
<b>As a Reader and Writer...</b>  <b>(See also year group reading passport)</b>	Escape from Pompeii – Christina Balit The Goose Guards – Terry Deary  <u><b>Entertain</b></u> Diaries based on the escape from Pompeii. Narrative – Based on the short animation, The Catch  <u><b>Inform</b></u> Non-chronological report – Roman Britain	Varjak Paw – SF Said The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folk Tale – Lowery and Keep  <u><b>Entertain</b></u> Narrative – Varjak Paw action scenes Folk Tale – The Chocolate Tree
<b>As a Mathematician ...</b>	<b>Number:</b> Multiplication and Division <b>Measurement:</b> Area	<b>Number:</b> Fractions <b>Number:</b> Decimals
<b>As a Geographer ...</b>	Volcanoes <b>KQ: How are volcanoes formed?</b> <b>What is it like to live near a volcano?</b>	
<b>As a Historian ...</b>	The Roman Empire: <b>KQ: How did the Romans change the landscape of Britain?</b>	The Mayans <b>KQ: Would you like to have lived as an ancient Mayan?</b>
<b>As a Scientist ...</b>	Sound <b>KQ: How are sounds made?</b> <b>What affects the volume and pitch of sounds?</b>	States of Matter <b>KQ: What are the properties of solids, liquids and gases?</b>
<b>As a Technologist</b>	<b>Online Safety</b> <b>Computing</b> Scratch animation	<b>Online Safety</b> <b>Computing</b> Word Processing
<b>As a Musician ...</b>	Charanga Music Scheme – exploring rhythm and musical notation	Charanga Music Scheme – exploring rhythm, musical notation, composition and performance.
<b>As an Artist ...</b>	Roman mosaics <b>Artists:</b> Art based on mosaics from the House of Faun in Pompeii	Clay modelling <b>Artists:</b> Anthony Gormley
<b>As a Linguist ...</b>	French: family members and parts of the body	
<b>As a global citizen... RE</b>	Gospels <b>Who do people say I am?</b>	Kingdom of God <b>What was the impact of Pentecost?</b>
<b>PSHE</b>	Diversity and Communities	Drug Education
<b>As an athlete ...</b>	Tennis	Hockey
<b>As an athlete ...</b>	Gymnastics	PB Fitness
<b>As an athlete ...</b>	PB Fitness	Football
<b>As an athlete ...</b>	Table Tennis	Gymnastics

