



Welcome to Year 4!

Teachers

Miss Kelly and Mrs Kanagasundaram are the class teachers for St Theresa's (4T), and Mrs Shandley is the class teacher in St Patrick's class (4P). In addition, the children will be taught by Mrs Mather for Music, Mr Sales for Games and Madame Harrison for French.

Pupil Behaviour

We have very high expectations for behaviour and we ask for your support in this matter. We seek to reward good behaviour through a whole host of strategies which begins with positive reinforcement and praise. Stickers, certificates, opportunities to share their work with other adults in the school (including Mrs Licence), house points and Class Dojos are all used as means of rewarding good behaviour, successes and achievements.

Marist Learner

The Marist Learner is at the heart of all our learning. During each day, we will be reminding the children of what it means to be a Marist Learner and looking for examples of the attributes in practice. When discussing their learning, we expect the children to identify their strengths and the areas they wish or need to develop.

Safeguarding and communication

At The Marist, the safety of your child is paramount. E-safety is an integral part of our curriculum and we ask for your support in demonstrating responsible internet and social media use to our children: this includes awareness of privacy when sharing photographs online.

Keeping children safe means fostering an open channel of communication between home and school: if you have any concerns, we would request that you speak to your child's class teacher or another member of staff in the first instance. Please support all our children by refraining from discussing school matters in an open forum – in our experience, the best way to resolve any issues is by speaking to us.

Maths

Daily maths lessons will focus greatly on the children's ability to apply their number knowledge to solve problems, use a variety of means of recording calculations and use manipulatives to support their learning. There is great emphasis on oral and mental maths and the lessons do not always comprise recorded work. The new national curriculum expectation is that by the end of Year 4 children will know all their times tables up to 12 x 12; for this reason it is important that the children practise their multiplication tables regularly. We will be testing tables, and their mental maths skills, on a weekly basis.

English

In line with the new curriculum our daily English lessons will see children work from a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to support their creative writing and learning of grammar. There will be weekly spelling investigations which are taken from the new curriculum for Years 3 and 4. The children will not have a formal weekly spelling test but will be encouraged to improve their own spelling skills.

All pupils are encouraged to change their own reading books, choosing from their colour band. Progress is monitored by the teacher and the children are benchmarked when ready to move to the next level. Guided Reading will take place at least once a week where the children will read with the teacher using a different text to their home reading book.

Topics

A curriculum topic web is published at the beginning of each half-term and outlines the content of each subject being taught. Our first topic is 'Mighty Mountains' and we will be looking at mountains and volcanoes. Thank you for all the super project work and thoughtful postcards from your children over the summer!



Religious Education

Within Year 4 this term we will focus on three key themes; those of Domestic Church (**Family**), Baptism and Confirmation (**Belonging**) and Advent and Christmas (**Loving**). We will also be looking at Judasism as our Other Faiths week this term. In the summer term we shall focus on Islam.

Class Worship Dates

	Leading Whole School Worship 9 to 9.30 am in Hall
St Patrick	Friday 16 th June 2017
St Theresa	Friday 14 th October 2016

School Trips

We will be going to The London Wetland Centre on October 13th to complement our Science topics for the term. We also have a trip planned in the Spring term on February 7th to Fishbourne Roman Palace and a very exciting 2 night residential trip to Hooke Court in Dorset booked for May 22nd – 24th to tie in with our work on Tudor history.

We will let you know of any other visits/school trips as soon as they are confirmed.

P.E.

We have two P.E. lessons a week, by Mr Arnold and coaches from Ultimate Coaching on a Wednesday and by the class teacher on a Friday, in both we will be following a new skills based scheme called Real PE. Please ensure that all kit and uniform are clearly named in a strong P.E. bag. We would ask that girls do not wear hard hairbands especially on P.E. days. A note is required if your child is unable to participate in P.E.

No jewellery or valuables should be brought into school. Watches may be worn, but should be removed for P.E.

Homework

Each night, 20 minutes of homework will be expected which may be reading and questioning with parents, spellings and/or mental maths/times table practice.

Spelling investigations are given on **Friday** to be returned on the following **Friday**. There will also be another piece of English homework given on a **Monday** to also be returned on a **Friday**. At times there will be topic or finishing off tasks given. Please check book bags for this. In addition, maths homework will be set weekly on the My Maths website on **Monday** to be completed by the following **Monday**. Please check the My Maths website for this. For those children who do not have a P.C. at home a lunchtime club is available in school.

Classroom Helpers

Please let us know if you are available to hear children read or help in the classroom in other ways. All parent helpers must now be police checked before working/helping with children. The school does not charge for volunteers however contributions are welcome. Please let the class teacher know if you are interested and then make an appointment with the Office to go through the paperwork. You will then have a brief meeting with Mrs Licence to run through our Volunteer Agreement.

If you have any problems or queries concerning your child, please do contact us through the office or catch us at the end of the day. Our school e mail addresses are also available but please do bear in mind that these are not for urgent matters– these must still come through the school office.

We look forward to working with you and your children and hope that everyone has a happy and successful Year 4.

Miss Kelly, Mrs Kanagasundaram and Mrs Shandley