

Years 3 & 4 Carpenter Class Spring Term 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a happy new year. Carpenters class have an exciting term ahead. We will be spending a day in Milton Keynes watching the new Horrible Histories show! We also have two forest school sessions planned for Spring two, our sports partnership restarting and swimming! I have booked Giant Journeys to enhance the learning that the children have been doing in Sport and Science in the last term. Giant Journeys use AI and VR for the whole class.

Geography - Our geography focus for the Spring term is 'Settlements'. In this unit, children head back in time to find out how the towns and cities of the UK first developed. Children will learn about the needs and requirements early settlers had when choosing a place to build a home. They will look at place names around the UK to see how the Anglo-Saxons, Romans and Vikings all left their mark. Through use of digital and paper maps, children will investigate land use in different sized settlements and the ways in which settlements are linked together. At the end of the unit, children draw together all their learning about settlements to design their own new settlement!



History - The history topic for this term is Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. This unit will teach the children about about the raids and invasions by Vikings in Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children will learn who the Vikings were as well as when and where they raided and settled. They will learn about significant events from the period and order these chronologically on a timeline. The children will find out about the Anglo-Saxon kings who ruled during the 'Viking Age' and examine their influence and significance in British history. In addition to this, they will learn about the Anglo-Saxon justice system and compare and contrast crimes, punishments and laws with their modern-day equivalents. The children will also have the opportunity to learn about different aspects of everyday Viking life. They will explore the types of houses that the Vikings lived in, what clothes they wore and even what types of food they ate.



Science - Sound (4)

In this unit, the children will learn how sound reaches the ear and how the different parts of the ear allow us to hear sounds. They will explore sound and understand how the intensity of sound is measured and how the strength of the vibrations affects the volume of a sound. The children will explore the term "pitch" and will understand that pitch refers to how high or low a sound is. This unit provides the opportunity for the children to work scientifically to analyse data, make conclusions and evaluate their experiment.

Electricity (4)

In this unit the children will learn about Conductors and Insulators: Identifying materials that conduct electricity (like metals) and those that are insulators (which prevent electricity from flowing). Simple Circuits: Learning how to design and construct simple circuits, understanding what components are needed for a circuit to work. Switches: Understanding the role of switches in controlling the flow of electricity and whether a lamp lights up. Complete vs. Incomplete Circuits: Differentiating between circuits that allow electricity to flow and those that do not. Circuit Diagrams: Learning to represent circuits visually using symbols to show components and connections.

Sustainability (Energy) (4)

This unit provides an opportunity for children to consider their energy usage and how it impacts the planet. The children will explore the terms "energy" and "energy usage". They will learn the different ways in which

electricity is generated and the way it is used in their daily lives. The children will explore how they can reduce their energy usage at home and in school and will discuss the positive impacts this has on planet Earth.

P.E. - The children will once again be taking part in the Coronation Cup event! The BGN sports partnership will start up again and the children in all key stages taking part in a variety of sporting events. Mr Causebrook will once again run inter house competitions for each event to ensure the children are prepared to compete. The children in KS2 will begin the Spring Swimming course in the second week. The PE units covered for this term will be gymnastics and football.

Art and DT- Art- Bodies

The children will learn about how to use pen, charcoal, felt tip, make maquettes, make paper clothes and sculpt Giacometti-inspired models to create quality artwork that shows progression in skills. The children will also have the opportunity to explore the work of 'Bodies' artists Julian Opie, Alberto Giacometti and Henry Moore.

DT- Battery operated lights

In this unit children will develop understanding about series and parallel circuits and different types of switches. They will then be given the chance to apply their knowledge about electric circuits in a purposeful way by designing and making a battery-operated light which will be controlled by a homemade switch. Children will decide upon the design criteria for the light by considering who will use it, where it will be used and what for. Finally, children will complete a detailed evaluation of their final product.

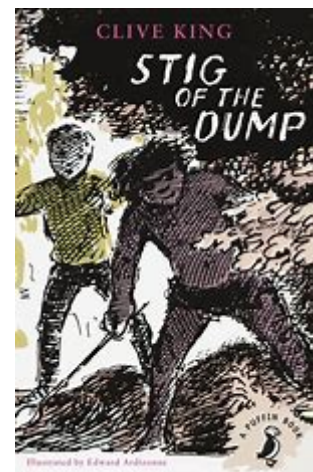
Computing - We have already begun our Spreadsheet unit using Purple Mash and have already a good grasp on the use of formulas. We will move on to cover 'Writing for different audiences' again using the Rising Stars software Purple Mash.

French- The children will work through the Year 4 La Jolie Ronde workbook. The children will complete a 15-minute session of French every day (Parcel of learning). We will also take opportunities to celebrate our learning on Feast days and through songs as we have in the past.

RE - During this term we will cover the branches 'Galilee to Jerusalem' and 'Desert to Garden' Where the children will learn about Easter time and Pentecost.

Music - Music this term starts with the topic 'Dragon Song' and we will then move on to preparing for the Passion Service in church.

English- This term in guided reading the children will be studying the book 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King. The children will complete weekly guided reading sessions on this story, use it as the context for writing persuasive letters and compare the story to the series produced by the BBC. In our daily Literacy lesson's we will be studying poetry and playscripts through the study of Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens. Mrs Morgan - The Literacy focus for after half term on my days is as follows:



- Finish the rain forest unit, focusing on persuasive language.
- Starting a new unit on Narrative Poems

Narrative Poems

The children will explore the features of narrative poetry; expanding noun phrases and punctuating speech. The children will read a variety of poems, focusing on comprehension by answering questions about what they have read. The children will finish the unit by composing their own narrative poems.

Texts: Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker/ The Vanishing Rainforest by Richard Platt

Website links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wU2kytIXhQ/>
https://worldrainforests.com/amazon/deforestation_calculations.html

Homework

The homework tasks that the children are expected to complete are as follows:

- Read their school reading book (daily)
- Practise spellings (weekly)
- Times table practise (weekly)
- Maths on Mathletics
- History Learning Log



P.E. Uniform

PE lessons will take place on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has the following kit suitable for both indoor and outdoor sessions:

- A red t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers
- A pair of tracksuit/jogging bottoms
- A hoodie or sweatshirt

We will aim to be outside as much as possible for our P.E. session, so it is important that the children have the items listed above to keep them warm as the weather gets colder. **Please note: in the interests of safety, children with earrings will be expected to remove them.**

Mathematics

The children will continue to learn using the White Rose maths scheme covering:

- Multiplication and Division
- Length and Perimeter
- Fractions
- Decimals

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

The new Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) will be administered to Year 4 pupils within a 3-week period in June 2026. The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times tables questions. Year 4 children will answer three practice questions before moving on to the official check where they will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can fluently recall their times tables up to 12x12, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

All children in the class should be able to access paper copies of the Multiples Marathon tests from the school website which will assist them in their knowledge and fluency of times table recall. It is expected that they practise the level of the test they are currently on at home, over the week in preparation for the Multiples Marathon tests, which take place on a Friday afternoon.

Pencil cases in school- it has been fun but....

The school provides all the equipment that the children require for them to complete their school work. **The use of pencil cases in Carpenter's Class is therefore discouraged**, as they and their contents can cause distractions, which disrupts learning. Also, items from them become 'lost' which can cause disagreements or distress for the children.

If you have any queries or questions, then please feel free to arrange a meeting by contacting the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs Concannon

Head Teacher

St Marys Catholic Primary School ALW