



ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL

NURSERY - INFANTS - JUNIORS - SENIORS



YEAR 4
CURRICULUM BOOKLET
2022-23



AT ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL
EVERYONE IS VALUED, EVERYONE IS SOMEONE



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Welcome to Year 4

This booklet aims to give you a brief idea of what life is like in Year 4 and the work your daughter will be covering.

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General Information

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Routines

Girls are based in their form room for most of the day but will visit specialist teachers for some lessons. Each girl will be given a timetable for their desk and another for home.

Each day begins and ends with the form teacher in the form room. This time is used partly for administration and partly for sharing concerns or triumphs on an informal basis.

Each girl has a school planner in which she will write her homework and any general reminders. This provides a useful contact with parents and can be used to send messages to and from home. Please check it regularly, sign it weekly and make sure that your daughter brings it to school with her every day. We will initial all messages to acknowledge we have seen them.

We encourage the girls to come into school independently in Year 4.

Keeping in Touch

There is an opportunity to meet formally with your daughter's form teacher in the Autumn and Spring Terms. You will find the dates on the termly calendar. All staff who teach your daughter will be available at one of these parents' evenings.

You will receive a grade sheet at the end of the Autumn and Spring Terms and a written report at the end of the Summer Term.

If you need to make contact at other times, it is usually best to write a note in your daughter's planner, email the teacher or contact the office to make an appointment with whichever teacher you wish to see.

Form teachers are always happy to speak to parents with concerns. Brief conversations can sometimes be had by arrangement at the beginning or end of the day.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We provide a variety of clubs during lunch times. Girls are asked to express a preference. Once activities have been agreed, girls are expected to attend every week. Activities change each term and cover a wide range, including music, sport and craft. After school activities are organised by Mr Nicholls. A form will be sent out for after-school activities in advance of each term (including homework club), so that girls can sign up for those activities they wish to attend.



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Homework

Girls are set homework each night and will be given a timetable for this at the beginning of the year. The homework may be a written task, learning (of tables or spellings for example), or a topic to research.

Please bear the following points in mind:

- Set tasks are normally intended to be completed by the girls alone and they should be encouraged to think for themselves. Parents should, however, be prepared to offer constructive help if required.
- It is usually helpful to maintain a routine for homework;
- Bear in mind that, with proper concentration, homework should take no longer than the time stated although enthusiasm to continue should not be discouraged;
- You may occasionally find that your child is not able to complete their homework, maybe because they have misunderstood something. You may choose to help or to send the work back to school incomplete. In either case, please write a note to the teacher so that we are aware that your child needs extra support or explanation.
- Girls are expected to hand homework in each day on arrival at school. If homework is regularly missing, late or incomplete, staff will notify parents via the school planner. Children will usually be asked to complete missing work.

Examinations

Normally School Examinations take place the week before half term in the Summer Term. Year 4 pupils take written examinations in English, Mathematics, Science and Topic. The dates of the examination week are published on the calendar for the Summer Term and a detailed timetable is given to the girls a week or so in advance.

Time is taken to go over work in lessons and to direct revision to the most relevant topics. Girls are expected to prepare well for the examination but very intensive 'cramming' is discouraged, not least because it tends to be counter-productive.

Results are given to the girls soon after the end of the examination period. Results are formally reported at the end of the academic year.



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Equipment

Girls should have the following equipment in school with them every day. All items should be clearly named.

- 30cm ruler
- pencils (at least 2)
- pencil sharpener
- coloured pencils
- glue stick
- scissors (metal blades)
- rubber
- basic calculator
- dictionary (Oxford Primary Dictionary recommended)
- Good News Bible
- felt pens and simple thesaurus (both optional)



Uniform and sports equipment lists are available separately from the school office. Please contact the office if you are unsure. It is especially important that clothing is clearly named, as it is often impossible to distinguish between the uniform of different girls.

Special Events

There are several events during the year which girls are expected to attend. There are two Open Days, one in October and one in March. At Girls will be expected to attend, and will be participating in activities for some of this time. There will be an Open Evening in May which girls may be required to attend.

There is a Junior Music Evening held in the Spring Term which girls are also expected to attend. The dates of these events will be found on the calendars issued at the beginning of each term.

The Summer Fête is usually held in June and girls are expected to attend. Although reminder letters will sometimes be sent out, this is not the usual practice. There are lots of other events which take place during school hours such as house competitions, internal concerts, theatre workshops, sports day and fundraising activities.



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Challenging the Able

It is important that each child should achieve their full potential in every lesson. Children who demonstrate a good understanding of the learning objectives will be moved on to extension tasks. These tasks may be on a related topic or problem –solving activities designed to develop a higher order of thinking skills.

Progress will be monitored carefully and teachers will plan and design a range of tasks while ensuring that every child is supported and encouraged to achieve their best.

Curriculum Support

Some children may require additional support which will be provided by differentiation within lessons as well as by the Curriculum Support Department.

Pupils' need for support can vary depending on the lesson and we aim to provide for individual requirements as they become apparent. As a result, curriculum support groups are flexible.

Curriculum support takes a variety of forms: small group or individual lessons on a weekly basis, sometimes for a period of half a term with a break for half a term. Sometimes all that is necessary is a short intensive programme. Pupils are recommended for support by the teachers based on their performance in testing and during normal lessons. Parents are always informed before formal Curriculum Support lessons are started.



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Art

Art lessons take place in the Art Centre where specialised facilities are available. Children develop a variety of skills such as shading, colouring, mixing. A variety of medias are used with reference to different artists and craft traditions of other cultures. All of these activities are directed towards engaging the children fully in the creative process and link across other areas of the curriculum.

Design Technology

Through a variety of design and making tasks, the girls develop their skills in construction and the use of a wide range of materials and techniques. They gain experience in using templates, cutting accurately with scissors, weaving, working with tools and making prototypes. Design Technology gives the opportunity for the development of practical and social skills in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.

Drama

The focus for the Autumn term is based on further development of vocal, physical theatre, and dance skills. Pupils also learn how to extend their organisational skills, by completing a variety of tasks within a set timeframe.

All of the Year 4 pupils will also participate in a Junior production and learn how to perform on stage to an adult audience.

Some of the topics and themes of Drama work are The Romans where pupils learn how to work with scripts, as well as devising and creating their own pieces., as well as Scriptwriting in the summer term. Pupils will end the year writing and staging their own short play scripts.





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English

As part of our exciting English curriculum, we have a rich diet of engaging and texts, such as ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’ by Michael Murpurgo, that stimulate high-quality writing. The children will consolidate and extend their knowledge of grammar and sentence punctuation. They will also work regularly on extended writing.

Spelling is taught with a focus on letter patterns and sounds, empowering the girls to make the correct choices. Spelling activities will be undertaken weekly. There will be a weekly spelling homework which will include a spelling list to learn.

Reading opportunities are provided throughout the curriculum and form teachers regularly listen to children read aloud in a variety of contexts. In addition, a dedicated reading time has been added to the time table.

DEAR Time (Drop Everything And Read) takes place at 1.45pm. While the girls are reading, the class teacher will have the opportunity to listen to individuals reading and may use the time to read from a novel to model reading aloud. The girls should have both a book from the Treetops scheme, which they will read aloud to teachers and parents, and a free reader book of their choice to read during independent reading sessions. It would be ideal if the girls could read for 20 minutes at home, at least three times a week, but everyday if possible. Please try to spend some time with your daughter on a regular basis to read and discuss her books with her.



French and Mandarin

French and Mandarin are taught using a fully interactive oral approach. The girls are involved in a variety of activities including role play, songs and games. In Mandarin girls will also practice writing Chinese characters. A wide range of everyday topics are covered.



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Geography

The girls study India, focusing on Kolkata and life in shanty towns. The girls will then study mountain environments focusing on the Alps. Throughout the year, girls build on mapping skills and awareness of global location.

History

Year 4 girls study the Romans, with particular emphasis on life in Britain during the Roman occupation. The girls will have the opportunity to collate all their Roman work across the subjects.

Information Technology

ICT skills are taught in dedicated lessons and are applied throughout the curriculum. Lessons are tailored to fit the abilities of each group and will include work on word processing, presentation graphics, coding and Internet research.



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Mathematics

We want our girls to become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics through varied and frequent practice with increasingly complex problems over time. They will develop the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately as well as their conceptual understanding.

Children are expected to know a variety of facts. During the year they will be learning to recall quickly:

- multiplication facts for all the times tables up to 12
- division facts corresponding to all the times tables up to 12
- number pairs that total 100
- all pairs of multiples of 50 with a total of 1000
- doubles of whole numbers to 50
- doubles of multiples of 10 to 500
- doubles of multiples of 100 to 5000
- all the corresponding halves
- addition and subtraction facts for all numbers to 20

Girls will also build on their understanding of the following topics through daily lessons:

- addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- units of measure
- time
- shape and space
- handling data
- roman numerals

If you are unsure about the methods your child has been taught, please ask her teacher or use the Calculations Policy which we will provide.



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Music

Year 4 pupils have two music lessons per week in the Music Room. In these lessons, they will continue to develop their listening, performing and composing skills. Topics of study include the Pentatonic Scale; Chinese Music and Rounds.

Pupils will also sing together as a class as well as developing their ensemble skills, using their own instruments as well as tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments.

Physical Education

All girls have two P.E. lessons every week which take place either outside or in the Sports Hall. The girls will experience a variety of activities including:

Gymnastics and Dance - Girls will build on their individual skills, learning to observe others and respond positively to a good performance.

Games skills - Girls will continue to develop their individual skills and begin to apply these to competitive situations in games such as: football, netball, hockey, tag-rugby, cricket and rounders.

Athletic activities - Girls will participate in a variety of running, jumping and throwing events and relays, both during lessons and on Sports Day, where they will compete both individually and in teams to earn points for their house.





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Personal, Social and Health Education

PSHE contributes to the girls' learning and focuses on their physical, moral, spiritual and social wellbeing.

Throughout the year the following topics will be covered:

- behaviour
- relationships
- self – esteem
- peer pressure
- health
- exercise
- family life and moral dilemmas

The girls will have the opportunity to discuss their own feelings and ideas as well as listen to the opinions of others.

Religious Studies

The children start the year by learning about the basic beliefs and practices of Hinduism. They consider why Easter is important to Christians and then investigate what it means to belong to the Church.

Science

Girls are taught in form groups. In Year 4, girls cover the topics of: Moving and Growing, Separating Solids and Liquids, Simple Electrical Circuits, Friction and Keeping Warm. Wherever possible the girls learn through practical experiments.

They will also have the opportunity to plan and carry out simple investigations.



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