



Year 4 Autumn Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

The children in Year 4 have been amazing so far this academic year and we are all extremely proud of them and their achievements. We have had a great start to the Spring Term and are looking forward to continuing to learn more new and exciting things. This term we have World Book and science week to look forward to.

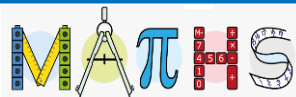
To help reduce the amount of lost property, it would be great if you could ensure that all of your child's belongings are named.

Homework for the children will now be set every Tuesday and is due the following Monday by 8pm. The children are encouraged where possible to complete their homework by Friday so that they can enjoy their weekends. Homework expectations are as follows:

- At least 20 minutes of reading per day
 - 1 LBQ maths activity
- 1 Spelling Shed task to be repeated at least 4 times

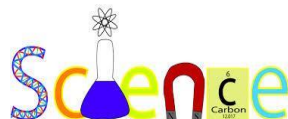


We are excited to tell you about our new writing curriculum 'The Write Stuff'. This term we have started with a non-fiction unit where the children will be writing a holiday brochure on Sicily and then their own on County Durham. We will then move on to a mystery story based on 'The Great Chocoplot'. We will now have three reading lessons a week building skills in fluency and comprehension. We are grateful for your continued support in reading with and to your child at home.



We continue our work on multiplication - it really does help with so many other areas of maths that it's worth getting to grips with. The children have been introduced to all the times tables up to 12 x 12 so any support at home for them to be able to recall these facts quickly would be tremendous! The children have multiplication passports which are stamped when they can successfully answer 40 questions, on a particular table, in 2 1/2 minutes.

Later in the term the children will be learning about fractions and how to record them as both mixed numbers and improper fractions. The term completes with a unit which further develops the children's understanding of place value by learning about decimals.



In science we are currently learning about animals including humans. We have already looked at the digestive system and teeth. We will move on to learning about food chains. We are also looking forward to science week.

Our first topic this term explores the question, 'What kind of world did Jesus want?' Then we move onto the topic of Salvation and discover why Christians call the day Jesus died, Good Friday.

HISTORY



In history this term, we are delving deeper into our topic of the Romans. We will be looking at how the Roman Empire grew across the world, not just Britain. We will also look at the daily life of the Romans, comparing and contrasting the experiences of male, female, rich and poor citizens. Finally, the topic will end by considering the impact the Romans had on the countries they invaded- such as inventing roads, taller buildings and improving plumbing.

GEOGRAPHY



Year 4 will learn about **rivers**. They will locate the main rivers of the UK focussing on our local River Wear that flows through Durham. They will look at the **water cycle** to explain where the water comes from to form rivers. They will learn that river systems are dynamic, changing the landscape in visible and at times dramatic ways. They will explore why settlements are located near rivers and the problems of flooding.

MUSIC



In music this term, we will be continuing to hone our performance skills (both solo & ensemble) through singing and playing tuned percussion. We will be focussing on an increased accuracy and beginning to read musical notation. This will lead to the composition of pieces within given parameters. We will be thinking about how music can be used to display and influence feelings. We will be learning songs such as "Bringing us Together", "Let Your Spirit Fly" and "The Other Side of the Moon".

COMPUTING



As many of you will have heard, Y4 are using the amazing Vex Go robots this term in computing. Only two have been driven off tables so far! Y4 will be using the robots to help with their coding skills as part of our Computer Science unit. The robots will be made to drive round courses, use sensors and give the children opportunities to work in groups to share and learn coding in a hands-on way.

ART



Our topic this term is Painting and Mixed Media. We will be looking at shades and tints and learning how to mix colours before creating our own still life image.



This term we are going to be developing our skills in net and wall games, particularly tennis and badminton. In their afternoon PE lessons the children will be completing a unit on gymnastics looking at balances movements on different levels.

French

In our French studies this term, we will be learning about colours and parts of the body. This will lead to the children being able to describe themselves and others. We will revise hobbies and days of the week in order for the children to be able to give a more rounded description of themselves and their likes and dislikes. Towards the end of the term we will learn about Easter in France.



In Design and Technology we will begin our new unit all about food and nutrition. We will be learning about seasonal foods and how they are better for the environment. We will consider what nutrition is and how we can make healthier food choices when cooking. We will then develop some skills such as cutting, grating and peeling. Finally we will put all our new skills to the test by designing and making a healthier pizza with seasonal ingredients.



We will complete two further puzzle pieces from our Jigsaw Curriculum this Spring term. The first being 'Dreams and Goals.' In this Puzzle, the children consider their hopes and dreams. They discuss how it feels when dreams don't come true and how to cope with/overcome feelings of disappointment. The children discuss making new plans and setting new goals even if they have been disappointed. The class will explore group work and overcoming challenges together. They reflect on their successes and the feelings associated with overcoming a challenge. Another piece that we will look at is 'Healthy Me'. In this Puzzle, the children look at the friendship groups that they are part of, how they are formed, how they have leaders and followers and what role they play. The children reflect on their friendships, how different people make them feel and which friends they value the most. The children also learn about smoking and its effects on health; they do the same with alcohol and then look at the reasons why people might drink or smoke. Finally, they learn about peer pressure and how to deal with it successfully.

If you have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year 4 team.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Spoors and Miss Whitton