



Year 4 Autumn Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

Firstly, thank you so much to all of the children in Year 4 for such a brilliant start to the year. It has been lovely getting to know everyone, making new friends and settling into our new year group.

This year, the children will continue to have most morning lessons with their class teacher and rotate around the school for afternoon lessons. This gives the children the opportunity to get to know more teachers in the school, as well ensuring that they receive the best teaching in every subject area. On a Tuesday morning Year 4 have PSHE with Mrs Kipling and PE with Mrs Hughes.

Homework for the children will be set every Monday and is due the following Sunday 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:

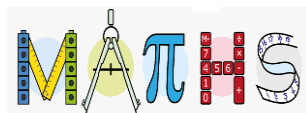
- At least 20 minutes of reading per day
- 1x Mathematics tasks, 3 games to be completed
- 1x Spelling Shed task, 4 games to be complete

We are excited for the term ahead and look forward to continuing our learning journey!

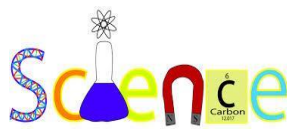
Team Year 4 (Mrs Spoors, Miss Whitton and Miss McIlwraith)



We begin the year with the book '*Toto the Ninja Cat*' by Dermot O'Leary. We will use this novel as a stimulus for writing our own diary entries. Next, we will study a film unit, *Spy Fox* and use this to retell a story. Finally, we will read '*Kaspar, Prince of Cats*' by Michael Morpurgo- a novel about the only cat to survive the sinking of the Titanic- and use this to write a letter and a diary entry. Throughout each unit of work, the children will be taught and supported in using the necessary vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. We will also have weekly spelling lessons.



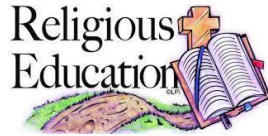
This term we have begun our maths by looking at place value and developing a secure understanding of numbers to 10,000. We will then move on to addition and subtraction before finishing with multiplication and division. We will be focussing on times tables knowledge a lot this year so any support you can give your child at home would be very much appreciated.



To start the year off we will be considering what makes a scientist and what scientific enquiry looks like.

Year 4 will then go on to learn about electricity, from generation to when the electricity reaches our homes - and how to be safe in the home when using electricity. We will be moving on to more practical work and creating our own circuits that will include bulbs, switches and batteries.

Our second unit this year will be animals including humans where the children will learn all about the human digestive system, teeth and food chains



We will study what it means to be a Sikh in Britain today and visit their place of worship, the Gurdwara. Our next unit will focus on the question 'How and why do people mark significant events of life?' At the end of the term, our work on Christmas will centre around the importance of Light.



In history this term, we will be answering the question, 'Why did the Romans march through County Durham?'. We will begin by enquiring how the Roman Empire expanded through Europe. We will then explore how and why the Romans invaded Britain. Next, we will study the reasons for the success of the Roman army before finally unravelling the reasons why the Romans marched through our local area and even settled in forts like Binchester.



Europe

The children will learn about the continent they live on. Pupils will locate European countries and capitals on a map, identify human and physical characteristics and compare geographical similarities and differences between Italy and the United Kingdom. We will zoom in on Bologna and compare it with Durham city. We will explore the importance of the The Mediterranean Sea.



In music this term, we will be looking at the structure of different songs and learning to sing and play along with them. We will also have the opportunity to improvise and play together in an ensemble on tuned percussion. We will try to look at the emotions created when playing in a certain style and the emotions when performing.



In art this term, we will be drawing. We will explore tone, texture and proportion. To show texture and tone in drawing, we will explore combining lines and mark making. Our observation skills will be used to help us understand proportion.



Y4 will be developing their ICT skills through typing challenges, Computer Science abilities by looking at algorithms and creating pieces of music on Scratch and their Digital Literacy by thinking about what is and isn't safe to share online. (Spoiler alert: there's a lot more in the second list than the first). We'll also look ahead to using the Vex-Go Robots after Christmas. Exciting times.



In PE this term, our topic is Netball. Throughout this unit of work, pupils will develop their ability to apply the principles of attack vs defence. There will be a particular focus on creating simple attacking tactics in order to move the ball up the court, creating an attack that results in a shooting opportunity. Pupils will develop life skills such as trust and cooperation as they work with others and apply the rules of the game.

French

Bonjour! Comment ca va? In French this term, the children will recap how to say hello and greet others. We will also recap the numbers 1-10 before learning to count to 30! Next will be giving the time and learning the days of the week. Following on from that we will learn about different hobbies. We will also learn the phonics "i", "oi", "ch" and "j" before ending the term with a look at the holiday season in France.



This term in Design and Technology, we are working on textiles. We will be designing, making and evaluating our wallets and purses. We will be able to put our learnt skills of running stitch, back stitch, over stitch and pattern making into practice. We will be creating a wallet/purse which can hold and protect money for ourselves or for a family member which should be decorated appropriately. When designing our product, we will have our purpose and audience in mind.



This term, we will begin with our first Jigsaw puzzle piece: Being Me in My World. During these sessions, we will focus on working together as a team, making decisions as to what behaviours make our school a great place to be, and on our rights and responsibilities when it comes to maintaining a democratic school environment. Following this, we will move on to our second puzzle piece: Celebrating Difference. This will give us the opportunity to consider what it means to judge people based on their appearance, the impact that bullying can have on individuals, and most importantly, developing problem-solving strategies so that we know what to do if we are being bullied or see bullying happening around us. Throughout the year, the children will be encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills during circle time activities by contributing towards discussions when they feel happy and comfortable to do so.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Spoor, Miss Whitton and Miss McIlwraith