



Year 4 Autumn Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

We are looking forward to a busy term in year 4 packed full of exciting activities and lessons. In particular we are looking forward to welcoming Adam Bushnell to inspire us with our writing. We are very impressed with how hard the children are working on learning their times tables - keep up this fabulous work.

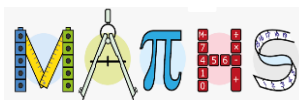
As normal, homework for the children will be set every Monday and is due the following Sunday by 8pm. The children are encouraged where possible to complete their homework by Friday so that they can enjoy their weekends. Homework expectations are as follows:

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



This term we will begin by reading *The Lion and the Unicorn* by Shirley Hughes. We will use this exciting text as a stimulus to write an historical narrative. Following this we will read an amazing novel called *Kaspar, Prince of Cats* by Michael Morpurgo. This story will be used as a basis for writing a persuasive advert and a blog/diary. 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 and handwriting lessons.

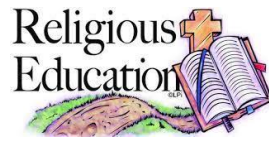
The children continue to have reading lessons of 30 minutes a day where we teach them key reading skills such as retrieval and inference. In addition, we have daily Accelerated Reader sessions of 20 minutes where the children can read in school as well as quizzing on books. Thank you for your support in encouraging the children to read at home.



We continue our work on multiplication - it really does help with so many any 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 20 questions, on a particular table, in 2 minutes. So far, we've visited Amsterdam, Paris and Rome - where will be next?



This term we are exploring sound. What can we make sounds with? How does sound travel? How do we hear sounds? We'll also be considering different types of musical instruments and the sounds they make.



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.



This term, we are continuing to learn about the Romans. Our work in lessons will aim to answer the question: What impact did the Roman Empire have on Britain? We will look at the daily life of the Romans, comparing and contrasting the experiences of male, female, rich and poor citizens. This will be followed by considering to what extent the changes they made- such as roads, buildings and housing- had an impact on our country.



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.



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".



We have a dual task in Y4 Computing this term. Firstly, we're building on our coding skills with the wonderful Vex-Go robots, getting them to complete a variety of tasks and challenges. The second task goes hand in hand with this as we're working in groups as we use the robots. Collaborative working is an important skill, especially when trying to avoid robots driving off tables.



This term we are being inspired by the work of sculptor Henry Moore. We will learn a range of techniques to allow us to work effectively with clay and will go on to make our own sculptures.



This term we are going to be developing our skills in net and wall games, particularly tennis. We have a coach from a local club working with year 4 for some of this term and he's already inspiring and motivating them to be the best that they can.

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.



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.



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, Miss Whitton and Miss Cranson