

Year 4 Autumn Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

It has been lovely getting to know everyone, making new friends and settling into our new year group and routines. We have also enjoyed welcoming some new class members.

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

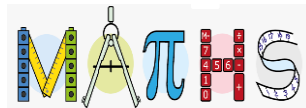
Homework for the children will be set every Monday and is due the following Sunday by 8pm. The children are encouraged where possible to complete their homework by Friday so that they can enjoy their weekends. Homework expectations are as follows:

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

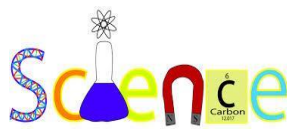
We are excited for the term ahead and look forward to continuing our learning journey!



The first novel we will read in Year 4 is 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' by Andy Shepherd: a hilarious book with a heartfelt message about care and friendship. We will use this novel as a stimulus for writing our own diary entries and a non-chronological report. Next, we will read 'Until I Met Dudley' by Roger McGough and Chris Riddell. This book delves into the inner workings of everyday machines in an exciting and funny way, and will help us to write our own explanation texts. 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 persuasive advert. 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.

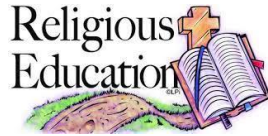


This term we have begun our maths by looking at place value and developing a secure understanding of numbers to 10,000. We will then move on to addition and subtraction before finishing with multiplication and division. We will be focussing on times tables knowledge a lot this year so any support you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



This term, Year 4 have started 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 had a fun interactive session to really think about the dangers of electricity, while appreciating that this energy source powers all of our modern lives.

We will be moving on to more practical work and creating our own circuits that will include bulbs, switches and batteries.



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 learning about how the Roman Empire expanded through Europe. We'll then look at how and why the Romans invaded Britain. Next, we will study the reasons for the success of the Roman army and end by 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 and 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.



This term we will continue to explore abstract art, building on the work the children completed in year 3. Our focus artist is Sandra Silberzweig and the children will create a self portrait using her work as inspiration.

COMPUTING

Vex-Go Robots will be our focus this year and this term we'll be building up to using them. We'll do some research, practise some scratch skills and continue with our never ending quest to ensure we use devices and access the internet safely.



This term the children will be learning about invasion games during their Tuesday morning PE lesson. On Friday afternoons they are completing a unit of dance where they will explore moving in time with others.

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.



In DT this term the children are designing their own Disneyland based on a story, a computer game, a film, and area of the world or space. As part of the design process children will be thinking about how their land will be set out, what different buildings they are going to have in their land and what key components they need for their land to work. The children are also thinking about how they would like people to feel whilst in their lands.



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 Spours, Miss Whitton and Mrs Hughes