



Year 4 Spring 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.

We have loved seeing the work the children have produced in the foundation subjects as they continue the afternoon rotation. Also, we are so pleased that their exceptional behaviour continues in every classroom they enter.

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
- Lexia (if your child is currently working through the programme)

We are very much looking forward to the rest of the term!

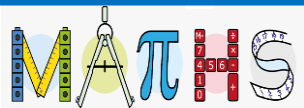
Mrs Donaghy, Mrs Spoors, Miss Cranson



This term we will begin to 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 newspaper report.

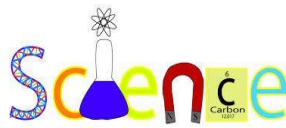
Following this, we will read *The Lion and the Unicorn* by Shirley Hughes. We will use this exciting text as a stimulus to write a historical narrative. Throughout each unit of work, the children will be taught and supported in using the necessary vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. We will also have 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.



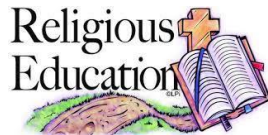
Times tables have been our focus recently and we are pleased to see the children working hard to learn these. We have introduced certificates for the children to earn when they are able to recite a times table confidently so as to reward their hard work. Being able to recall multiplication and division facts will stand them in good stead for some of our maths units coming up this term.

We begin with looking at length and perimeter, the children will learn how to find the perimeter of a variety of different shapes. Then we move on to another multiplication and division unit which will include looking at written methods for multiplication. We then move on to fractions where the children will be learning how to add and subtraction fractions as well as convert from mixed numbers to improper fractions. The term finishes with an introduction to decimals.



This term we will be studying States of Matter. This includes what Matter is, and investigating how these can change and why. This includes planning investigations that use fair tests to gather data, which we will use to make conclusions. This data will also be used to create graphs and charts to show our results in different ways.

We will then build on writing conclusions to explain what we have discovered and why. This will be followed up with evaluations that assess how well the investigations went and what changes or improvements we would make if we were to repeat the process. All of this will build experience on working scientifically, which will be invaluable towards progress in Science.



This term will begin with the main topic for the term, 'Salvation'. We will focus on an understanding of the key events and emotions associated with Holy Week, in particular the crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. This will be followed by a study of Easter traditions around the world.



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.



This term we will continue our drumming lessons with Mr Abbott. We are really enjoying the rhythms and techniques we have been learning about!



Y4 have had their first opportunity to get to know the Vex-Go robots which they'll be using during this term. Coding and programming skills will be the focus as they complete a series of VexGo based challenges.



This term we will continue to create our Pop Art travel posters. After half term, we will begin looking in more detail at how Pop Art artists use block lettering in their work and learn how to draw graffiti-style lettering using millennial words.



This term the children will design and make a battery operated light which will be controlled by a homemade switch. Children will decide upon the design criteria for the light by considering who will use it, where it will be used and what for. They will be made from reusable products such as plastic bottles and card packaging.



This term the children will be developing their gymnastics skills. They will be looking at creating symmetrical and asymmetrical balances and how they can link these together smoothly to create a sequence of movements. Later in the term, they will build on their previous learning in net and wall games and begin to apply this in badminton.

French

The children have recently been introduced to a new school program called Languagenut. They are using this to reinforce their previous learning through speaking, listening and games.



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, Mrs Donaghy and Miss Cranson