



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
 - 3x Mathematics tasks
 - 1x Spelling Shed task
- Lexia (if your child is currently working through the programme)

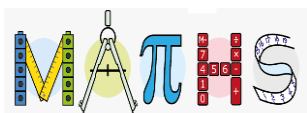
We are very much looking forward to the rest of the term!

Team Year 4 (Mrs Hodgins, Mr Hamlen, Mrs Kipling, Mrs Curtis and Miss Curtis)



In English, we are just starting our new writing unit which is based around the wonderful picture book *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister. We will be using the plot and illustrations within this book to write and perform some poetry. 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 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.

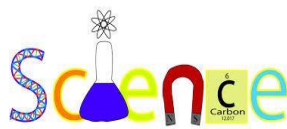


In Maths, we are continuing with Multiplication and Division and there is a strong focus on times tables facts and how these help us with other related problems. We practice times tables often via songs, writing them down and random questions. This all helps to put these facts into the memory banks.

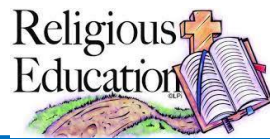
Following this unit, we will move onto Length and Perimeter, followed by Fractions.

We have Arithmetic sessions every day to test retrieval skills, as well as introducing new ideas where applicable and recap areas for improvement. Arithmetic is a skill that can be used throughout our lives and is vital to progress in Maths.

Once a week we have Reasoning and Problem-Solving lessons that aim to build towards mastery level. These target questions that cover the week's topics and help the children dig deeper into the material. There are also such questions during each daily Maths lessons but the weekly sessions build on this deeper thinking work.



This term we will be studying States of Matter 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.



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 be exploring and listening to gospel and soul music in our topic *Lean on Me*. We will enjoy listening to important songs from the genre and finding out more about how to identify gospel and soul music.



This term, we will continue our Pop Art travel posters. We will then evaluate our project, considering what we were successful in doing and what could be improved.



Year 4 have enjoyed using their coding knowledge to make the fabulous Vex-Go robots follow their every command. We'll continue to do this over this term, before we turn our attention to using ICT skills to 'sell' the robots.



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.

French

This term the children are thoroughly enjoying learning about food in French. They will be able to express their likes and dislikes and ask for what they would like to eat in our pretend cafe at the end of the unit.



A space themed dance is currently being created by the children. We are exploring how astronauts and aliens may move whilst also developing our understanding of dance vocabulary such as mirroring, unison and canon.

The children are also learning how to play tennis/badminton and how the skills for each of these are transferable.



In PHSE, our unit is called 'Being Me in My World'. During these sessions, we have created a Class Charter, looked at the role of democracy in our school and considered how we can all contribute towards ensuring we demonstrate our school values. Throughout the rest of the term, we will continue to embed these values, enjoying circle time discussions and games along the way!

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hodgins, Mr Hamlen, Mrs Kipling, Mrs Curtis and Ms Curtis