



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 classes. We loved the team building days at the beginning of the year: they really helped us develop our problem solving skills and practise working effectively with others.

This year, the children will continue to have morning lessons with their class teacher and rotate around the school for afternoon lessons. This gives the children the opportunity to get to know every teacher in the school, as well ensuring that they receive the best teaching in every subject area.

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:

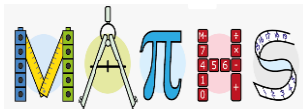
- At least 20 minutes of reading per day
 - 3x Mathematics tasks
 - 1x Spelling Shed task

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

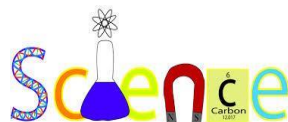
Team Year 4 (Mrs Hodgins, Mr Hamlen, Mrs Kipling and Mrs Curtis)



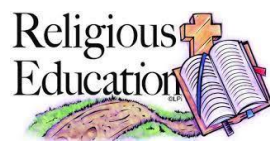
The first novel we will read in Year 4 is 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' by Andy Shepherd: a hilarious book with a heartfelt message about care and friendship. We will use this novel as a stimulus for writing our own diary entries and a non-chronological report. Next, we will read 'Until I Met Dudley' by 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.



We start off our day with a quick-fire Arithmetic session that tests retrieval of previous work and also a challenge for what will be coming soon. This is followed by a full Maths lesson with plenty of questioning and not being afraid to make mistakes because we all learn from these. We are covering Place Value.



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 begin with a study of the question, 'How and why do believers show their commitments during the journey of life?'

Next, we will explore the question, 'What does it mean to be a Sikh in Britain today?' Finally, the unit on Christmas will focus on 'Light'.



In history this term, we will be answering the question, 'Why did the Romans march through County Durham?'. We will begin by considering the chronology of various time periods within British and world history, 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.



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 The Mediterranean/Italy and the United Kingdom. We will zoom in on Bologna and compare it with Durham city.



The children will commence their Music lessons in the Spring term and be taught by Mrs Milligan. They will enjoy a variety of singing, listening, composing and performing activities to support their musical education.



The children will explore the Pop Art movement, looking at how artists create a repeating pattern and use eye-catching colours to create their work. They will then create their own vintage travel poster inspired by the Pop Art style.



This term the children will be researching freestanding structures and how to create their own marble run. They will be focussing on modelling and joining techniques using a range of different materials. Some excellent examples of structures for children to research and talk about would be roller coasters, bridges and theme park rides.



Our Computing lessons this term will focus on designing and then starting to create a maths-based game on Scratch (Computer Science). We'll look at the design process, study some great (and a few rubbish) examples to know what to do (and sometimes what not to do). We'll continue to develop our IT skills, whilst ensuring we are as Digitally Literate as possible, make sure we're safe when using devices.

French

In French this term the children will be learning how to talk about different animals and their homes. They will be looking at how to describe pets using adjectives.



This term in their PE lessons the children will be completing a gymnastics unit where we will be considering symmetry and asymmetry in our balances. We will then build on this to create a sequence of movement where balances and travelling are linked together seamlessly. They will also be completing an invasion games unit where they will be looking at how to defend and attack within a game setting.



PSHE this year will be taught through a number of dedicated dropdown days. Further information regarding these days will be sent out to parents in due course.

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 and Mrs Curtis