

# Year 4

## Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



### KEY DATES

End of Term 5 –  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Start of Term 6 –  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Parent-Teacher Conferences –  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June and  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

## British History

This term, Year 4 will study Henry VIII. Henry had great difficulty in securing his divorce from his first wife and this became known as his 'Great Matter'.

Key vocabulary: divorce, dynasty, vivacious, valid, smitten, null and void.

In Term 6, Year 4 will learn about Queen Elizabeth I and the Spanish Armada. Elizabeth I is regarded as one of England's greatest monarchs and the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 against King Philip II was the most spectacular of her achievements.

Key vocabulary: feeble, realm, golden age, turmoil, eulogised, apocryphal, skirmish, rendezvous, turned tail, in hot pursuit.

## Ancient History

Year 4 will begin the term by studying Ancient China, one of the world's oldest civilisations. We shall begin by learning about the Zhou Dynasty and about the role of Mandate of Heaven. Later, we shall find out about the Warring States Period and find out about how crucial it was for the development of a number of different philosophies. Finally, we shall learn about Ying Zheng and the 'unification' of ancient China, and consider why this was so significant.

Later, we shall begin our study of Ancient Greece, learning first about the fascinating civilisations of the Bronze Age and then about how society changed during the Dark Ages. As part of this, the children will read some exciting Greek myths, including the legend of the Minotaur and the story of the Trojan Horse. They will then learn about the development of city-states, including the rivalry that emerged

## English & Grammar

This term, Year 4 are reading *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, a novel by Joan Aiken (an English author famous for her historical and fantasy children's novels). The story is set in an alternative 1830s, during the reign of the imaginary King James III. *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* tells the story of two cousins, Bonnie and Sylvia, who work together to defeat the treacherous plans of their evil governess, Miss Slighcarp. On the way, they meet cunning lawyers, adventurous urchins, kindly servants and wicked school-masters. *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* is a thrilling tale of plots, deceit, wickedness and bravery that is guaranteed to intrigue and surprise the reader at every turn.

## Science

During the first half of the summer term, the children will be studying physics. They will begin by learning about celestial objects and exploring space.

In the second half of term, the children will continue studying physics, learning about electrical safety and static and current electricity. They will also have the opportunity to work scientifically. Furthermore, their knowledge will be enhanced by visiting the Greenwich Planetarium.

Vocabulary: electron, proton, neutron, atom, particle, conductors, insulators, current, cell, symbols, attraction, repulsion, voltage, resistance, energy, transfer, solar system, satellites, telescopes.

## Maths

In the Summer term children will study:

Fractions

- Review equivalent fractions.
- Count up and down in hundredths.
- Recognise and write any decimal numbers with up to two places as fractions.
- Recognise and write decimal equivalents to  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$ .
- Compare and order decimals.
- Round decimals to the nearest whole number.
- Solve simple word problems involving fractions and decimals.

Measures including time and money

- Convert between different units of measurements for example: km to m or hours to min.
- Read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12-hour and 24-hour clocks.
- Measure and calculate perimeters and areas of rectilinear shapes (including squares) in cm and m.

Geometry:

- Identify lines of symmetry in any 2D shape.
- Identify and describe 2D shapes including different quadrilaterals and different types of triangles.
- Identify acute, obtuse and right angles.
- Use coordinates to describe position and draw simple shapes in the first quadrant.

Statistics:

- Solve comparison, difference and sum problems using information presented in bar charts, pictograms, tables and time graphs.

Key vocabulary; Dominator, numerator, equivalent, decimal, tenths, hundredths, convert, area, perimeter, rectilinear, quadrilateral, equilateral/scalene/isosceles triangle, x-axis, y-axis, vertical, horizontal, parallel, perpendicular, acute, obtuse, right angle.

## Geography

The children will start the summer term continuing learning about the UK: focusing on the three types of industries (primary, secondary and tertiary).

In the second half of the term, they will focus their learning on various types of farming: arable, intensive and organic. They will analyse various diagrams and maps to enhance their understanding of farming practices across the UK.

Vocabulary: agriculture, arable farming, pastoral farming, crop, farming, industry, raw material, employment, port, transportation.

## Latin

During the summer term, we shall learn how to construct (and answer!) questions in Latin. We shall also start to translate more complex, multi-clauses sentences containing a larger number or wider variety of conjunctions. Alongside this, children will be learning a wide range of Latin vocabulary, and they will explore some of the English words that come from these Latin words. Their challenge is to use these new words in their creative writing in other subjects!

## Music

During the summer terms we will be studying the Violin.

## Religious Education

This term, we will be learning about Christianity, drawing on our knowledge of the Bible from the autumn term. We will explore what Christians believe about God, how they believe in treating others, and how Christians worship and differ in their practices.

Key vocabulary: Christianity, Christian, Messiah, resurrect, eternal, monotheist, Trinity, creator, omnipotent, commandment, worship, church, Sabbath, Communion, Eucharist, Mass, priest, minister, pulpit, lectern, denomination, worship, ritual.

## PSHE

This term, Year 4 will be learning about healthy eating. They will be learning about the different food groups and how they contribute towards a healthy, balanced diet. They will also be discussing the principles of planning and preparing healthy meals.

## PE

This term, we will be focussing on striking & fielding, more specifically in cricket. We will be concentrating on the various intricacies involved in bowling, batting and fielding. This includes catching & throwing, hand-eye coordination, positioning and teamwork.

Our KS2 Sports Day will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July at Battersea Park Millennium Arena.

## Art

This term, we are continuing to explore fabrics from different cultures and work with different textile art techniques, and thinking about pattern and colour in our work.

Vocabulary: Textiles, print, pattern, colour, weaving, repeat motif, stitch.

Next term, we will be looking at 3D form and the theme of birds in art, using this as a starting point for creating mixed media artworks and preparing for our Summer exhibition!

Vocabulary: Texture, featheriness, ornithologist, form, sculpture, mixed-media.