

Year 4

Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



KEY DATES

End of Term 1:
Friday 22nd October

Start of Term 2:
Monday 1st November

Parent Conferences:
Thursday 2nd and
Tuesday 7th December

English & Grammar

This term in English, the class will be reading *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. The novel is comprised of a series of interwoven tales depicting the adventures of four animals: Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad. The animals are personified (given human characteristics), and each animal has a very distinct character and approach to life (from the shy Mole to the gently naïve Rat, and from the hospitable but reclusive Badger to the reckless and impetuous Toad). The book is one of the most enduring and well-loved children's books of all time, and has had a huge impact on literary, musical and dramatic culture. As well as reading the book and exploring the ambitious vocabulary it contains, children will write diary entries from Toad's perspective. This will give them the opportunity to practise using techniques which help to convey characters' emotional responses.

This term in Grammar, the class will be reviewing the rules for punctuating direct speech, including how to write a dialogue between two or more speakers. They will learn how to use fronted adverbials, as well as how to provide reasons for events in their writing, using increasingly sophisticated sentence structures. In their daily English language homework, they will continue to consolidate knowledge such as how to use the apostrophes of possession and contraction correctly.

British History

This term, students will learn about Edward I's conquest of Wales. They will begin to understand how the separate nations of the UK began to merge into one single entity. Key figures include Llewelyn, who did everything within his power to resist his English conquerors, and Edward I – a ruthless and determined king.

Key Vocabulary: fortress, homage, coronation, consolidate, consent, taxes

Ancient History

We will study the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (which existed in northern India and Pakistan). Children will learn about the fascinatingly mysterious Harappan people. We know very little about them, largely because their writing system has remained indecipherable. However, we will explore the latest knowledge gathered from archaeological remains. There will be a focus on the advanced cities of the Indus Valley civilisation, with their complex sanitation systems and luxury artefacts, and we will compare the Indus Valley Civilisation's development to that of the ancient Egyptians and Mesopotamians, in particular thinking about the role of rivers.

Vocabulary: Indus Valley, Harappan, civilisation, significance, technology, trade, artefact, deity

Maths

In the autumn term, children will learn how to:

Place Value and Number

- Recognise the place value of each digit in a 4-digit number (thousands, hundreds, tens and ones)
- Order and compare numbers beyond 1000 using $<$, $>$ and $=$ signs
- Round any 4-digit number to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000
- Read Roman numerals to 100 (I to C)
- Estimate the answer to a calculation and use the inverse to check the answers

Addition and Subtraction

- Add and subtract numbers with up to four digits using formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction
- Solve addition and subtraction 2-step problems in context, deciding which operations and methods to use and giving reasons for this choice

Multiplication and Division

- Recall multiplication and division facts for 6, 7 and 9 multiplication tables
- Use place value and known facts to multiply and divide mentally by 1, 10, itself, 10 and 100

Measurement: Length and Perimeter

- Convert between different units of measurement (for example, kilometre to metre & metre to centimetre)
- Add and subtract lengths
- Measure and calculate the perimeter of rectilinear shapes, including squares

Key vocabulary: place value, thousands, hundreds, tens, ones, digits, numbers, partition, greater than, less than, ascending, descending, round, rounded to, multiple, regroup, exchange, groups of, lots of, share, equally, km, cm, mm, convert, perimeter, rectilinear, polygon, regular, irregular

Geography

In Year 4, the children will be revising and expanding the geographical knowledge they learned last year, with a particular focus on applying their knowledge to the United Kingdom. During the autumn term, they will learn about how maps and about how lines of latitude and longitude can be used to describe locations on the Earth's surface, and they will use them to locate places in the UK. They will study the UK as a whole, and each of its four countries individually, in order to understand the major human and physical features of our country.

Latin

This term, the children will be learning about subjects and objects. They will learn how, while English uses word order to reveal which word is a subject and which is the object, Latin uses the ending of its nouns. Over the course of the term, they will use this knowledge to translate increasingly complex sentences, including ones with multiple clauses. By the end of term, they will be able to translate into English short Latin stories set in ancient Mesopotamia.

Alongside this, children will also 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!

Science

During the first half of the autumn term, the children will study chemistry. They will consolidate and expand their understanding of the three states of matter and of particle theory, which they first learned in Year 3. They will then move on to learning about atoms, molecules, elements and compounds. This will lay the foundation for an understanding of the differences between physical and chemical changes.

In the second half of term, the children will study biology, learning about what organisms are and about the life processes. Later, they will learn about the functions of different parts of plants, about photosynthesis and about plant reproduction.

Throughout the term, the children will consolidate and develop their understanding of the scientific method, including an appreciation of the importance of evidence in scientific enquiry.

Religious Education

Over the course of this academic year, the children will study the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We begin the term by learning about the Bible and by reading some of its most significant narratives, including Creation; Adam and Eve, and the Fall; Noah's Ark and the Flood; and the testing of Abraham. As the children study them, they will be encouraged to understand the different ways in which they have been interpreted, focusing on the difference between literal and metaphorical interpretations.

Towards the end of term, we shall move on to begin studying Judaism. The children will learn Jews' major beliefs, including about God and the Messiah, and they will develop an understanding of how Jews differ in their beliefs and practices. This will set them up for a more detailed study of this faith in the spring term.

Art

Term one: Colour theory

Artist/image: Matisse, The Blue Window 1913

Key words: tertiary, warm, cool, shades, tints, complimentary, contrast, blend, interior, exterior

Term two: Clay work. Henry Moore Sculpture

Artist/image – Henry Moore, Family group, 1949

Key words: semi-abstract, distorted, conventional, maquette, reclining

Music

This term, Year 4 will be consolidating and expanding their knowledge of how to read and to write music while learning to play an instrument (different children are learning different instruments). They will learn to use subject-specific vocabulary, such as *stave, treble clef, time signature, bar line, double bar line, bar, rest, minim, quaver, crotchet, rhythm, pitch, and dynamics*; and they will relate these to other aspects of the music they hear and make.

PE

This term, we will be doing basketball and fitness. Basketball will focus on passing, shooting and dribbling with a significant emphasis on teamwork and co-operation. In fitness we will be looking at different muscle groups and building stamina.

PSHE

During the first few weeks of term, as we welcomed children back to school, form teachers spent a considerable amount of time getting to know the children in their classes. As part of this, the children revised the school's rules and routines, and discussed how these rules will help them have a happy and successful year. They also explored the importance of respectful relationships and discussed the practical steps we can take in a range of contexts to improve and support them. The children also explored their own identity and considered what made them special and unique, helping them to appreciate the importance of self-respect.

Much of this autumn term will be devoted to learning about Britain's democratic system, including local and devolved government, and the rule of law. The children will begin by learning about the three parts of Parliament, about how laws are formed and about the political process, including the role of the government, the opposition and the civil service. They will then be introduced to the distinction between the legislature and the judiciary, and they will explore the role of the police.

Towards the end of term, the children will begin to learn about some important figures who have changed our world. The children will explore the character traits that have supported them to make a positive contribution to society.

Over the course of the year, our PSHCE curriculum aims to help children learn to live as kind, tolerant members of our diverse community, and to give them an understanding of how to keep themselves safe and both physically and mentally healthy. Our teaching will be adapted to the needs of our children and will respond to issues and events in our community and in the wider world.