

Year 4

Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



KEY DATES

End of term 3 –
Friday 11th
February

Start of term 4 –
Monday 21st
February

Parent-Teacher Conferences –
Thursday 17th and Tuesday 22nd
March

British History

This term, Year 4 will study the Peasants' Revolt, which was a popular uprising which attempted to challenge the rigid structure of feudal society in 1381. The revolt mainly took place in the counties of southern England. It started in Essex and Kent. A priest named John Ball and an ex-soldier named Wat Tyler were the rebel leaders.

Key Vocabulary: revolt, feudal system, Black Death, landlord, peasant, Stature of Labourers, Poll Tax, vassal.

In term 4, Year 4 will learn about King Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt. Henry V became King in 1413 when his father, Henry IV, collapsed at Edward the Confessor's shrine in Westminster Abbey. In August 1415, Henry decided to relaunch his campaign and restate his great-grandfather's claim to the French throne, and in, August 1415, he and his army landed in France. Key figures include Joan of Arc, a French girl, who inspired victories against the English and was burnt at the stake.

Key Vocabulary: usurp, depose, revolt, civil war, Harfleur, dysentery, knight, archer, stake, longbow, chivalry, Treaty of Troyes, Hundred Years' War, Battle of Castillon.

Ancient History

This term, Year 4 will study the Persian Empire. We shall learn about the empire's origins, about how it expanded and about how it was eventually defeated. We shall also explore how it was ruled, including the role of the king, his officials and the satraps. As part of this, we shall learn about the importance of art and architecture, including the sculptures from the remarkable ceremonial capital at Persepolis, and about the Royal Roads that crossed vast stretches of land.

English & Grammar

In term 3, children will be reading Leon Garfield's retelling of Macbeth by William Shakespeare. Sometimes dubbed 'The Scottish Play' (for fear of bringing a curse upon the speaker), Macbeth is arguably Shakespeare's darkest and most eerie work. The tale of an ambitious and successful Scottish general, it is a 'tragedy' in its truest form: the protagonist, Macbeth, has many faults, and is in many ways an unsympathetic and loathsome character, but he also suffers greatly for his wrongdoings and feels true unease and guilt when confronted with his crimes. Ultimately, the twisting and turning narrative of Macbeth, containing some of Shakespeare's most famous (and infamous) scenes, is a story of witches, magic, treachery and murder.

In term 4, children will be reading a collection of poetry about London by poets such as William Blake and John Agard. Through these poems, children will be encouraged to explore literary devices such as simile, metaphor and personification.

Maths

In the spring term, the children will study:

Multiplication and Division

- Review multiplication and division facts for 6, 7 and 9 multiplication tables
- Review using place value and known facts to multiply and divide mentally by 1, 0, itself, 10 and 100
- Recall multiplication and division facts for 11- and 12-times tables
- Multiply and divide 2-digit and 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using formal written layout
- Solve written problems involving all four operations

Fractions

- Recognise, find and write unit and non-unit fractions of sets of objects including halves, quarters and thirds
- Recognise and show using diagrams families of common equivalent fractions
- Add and subtract fractions with common denominators

Key vocabulary: multiple, regroup, exchange, groups of, lots of, share, equally, unit fractions, non-unit fractions, numerator, denominator, equivalent fraction, halves, thirds, quarters.

Science

During the first half of the spring term, the children will continue to study biology. They will begin by learning about ecology and develop their ability to classify different organisms into groups. Classification is an important idea, and it is a scientific method to which children will build their knowledge from their learning in year 3.

In the second half of term, the children will continue studying biology, learning about types of consumers, food webs and the links in-between. Later, they will learn about the cycling of the seasons.

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 spring term, they will learn about climate, mountains, rivers, seas, oceans, settlements and coastlines. They will learn how to identify key features of different rivers using their atlases and they will be introduced to climate charts.

Latin

This term, the children will learn how the Romans used adjectives to create noun phrases. They will discover that, while English uses word order to show which adjective describes which noun, Latin uses the ending of the adjective. Over the course of the term, they will use this knowledge to translate increasingly complex Latin 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 Egypt.

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!

Art

This term, we are using Hans Holbein's painting "King Henry VIII", 1536, as a starting point to explore the idea of portraiture in art. We will be using drawing and photography to make portraits, and also learning to use the grid method used by Tudor artists to copy and enlarge accurately. Vocabulary: Portrait, self-portrait, decadence, composition, texture, light.

Next term, the children will be learning about the beautiful artwork of the Benin kingdom dating back to the 16th century. They will be looking in detail at the Ivory Mask Worn by Oba Esigie who ruled the kingdom of Benin in 1504–1550.

The children will look at a selection of African masks for inspiration to make their own masks using a selection of cards and papers. Vocabulary: Trade, Craftsmanship, Wealth, Intricate, Composition, Layering.

Religious Education

We begin the term by continuing our study of Judaism, learning in particular about Shabbat and about Jewish beliefs about the Messiah. We then move on to study Christianity. Drawing on our knowledge of the Bible from the autumn term, we explore what Christians believe about God, and discover how Christians vary in their beliefs and practices.

Music

This term, we will continue to develop our understanding of pitch, pulse and rhythm with exercises and games. We will continue putting our music theory knowledge into practice as we compose our own rhythms and melodies. This term we will also be learning about some of the instruments of the orchestra and listening analytically to pieces of music written for orchestra.

PSHE

Year 4 will begin the term by learning about the lives of individuals who have made a significant contribution to their own communities or even to our global community. As they do this, they will discuss with their classes the character traits on which these figures relied. They will then go on to discuss the importance of communication, focusing in particular on how letters can be used to communicate, both formally and informally. They will learn about addresses (including postcodes) and the postal system, and even have a chance to write their own postcards!

PE

This term, we will be introducing hockey. This will focus around hand-eye co-ordination, teamwork and communication. We will also be looking at the difference between attacking and defending.

