



Aston Tower Primary School

Year 4 - Autumn 1

English

Reading

In Reading, your child will begin the year reading the dragon snatcher, a book about a young boy who desperately tries to defeat the evil wizard who has been stealing 'Dragon's eggs, but will he manage it? Following this, your children will read 'Varjak Paw' Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue cat from a large family that live comfortably inside the Contessa's large, grand house. Yet, when the Gentleman arrives with his odd black cats, Varjak and his grandfather the Elder Paw believe that something strange is going on. What will they find out?

Writing

In our writing lessons, your child will write an adventure story in the style of the Dragon Snatcher. Then, with our work on 'Varjak Paw' text, children will write in a range of different styles such as:

- Newspaper reports
- Narratives
- Persuasive letters

How you can help your child at home

Read a range of texts and books at home, expanding knowledge of different genres and styles of writing, focusing on quality vocabulary.

- Practice weekly spellings with your child, looking for patterns and rules, which can be applied to similar words.
- After your child has read a passage of text or a book, ask questions that further develop their understanding of what they have just read.

Questions like:

- "How does the character feel at the end of the story?"
- "Summarise the story in thirty words."
- "Which character did you like the most? Why?"

Mathematics

In mathematics this half term, we are exploring the four operations and the ways in which questions can be solved. After this, we will turn our attention to recognising equivalent fractions, adding fractions with the same denominator, rounding and comparing decimals up to two decimal places and finally problem solving with fractions and decimals

How you can help your child at home

Every day in year 4, children practice their times tables. To support them in this, we recommend that your child be given some time each week to access their TT Rock stars account to help them learn their times tables.

Pose problems to your child such as: "If I have 10 lots of thirteen sweets, how many would I have?" – This enables children to develop a greater understanding of practical mathematics and apply the skills they have learnt in lessons to reasoning.

Encourage your child to draw comparisons between fractions and decimals (example: $\frac{1}{2}$ is the same as 0.5).

Science

In science, children will study electricity with a focus on the following areas:

- How is electricity generated?
- Which items use electricity?
- How do I recognise electrical circuits?
- Which materials conduct electricity?
- What happens when I switch off a light?
- How are circuits made?

How you can help your child at home

The children will be focussing on circuits and electricity; some of the areas covered are listed above. To support your child further you can talk to them about the general appliances in your household; how they function and the importance of electricity for them. ['Electricity - KS2 Science - BBC Bitesize'](#) The BBC bitesize website has some interesting information that the children would enjoy learning about.

History

Invaders and Settlers: Anglo-Saxons illustrates key aspects of the nature of invasion and settlement in history. Through a study of the broad social context of the Anglo-Saxon period, children will learn how this important group of settlers fits into the chronology of Britain.

How you can help your child at home.

- Allow your child to research life in the Anglo Saxon Period, focusing on religion, traditions, food and life in Britain around AD449..
- Research what impact the Anglo Saxons had in our society and what legacies they have left behind.

Physical Education (PE)

Your child's PE lesson will take place on a Thursday.

Our Year 4 Dance Lesson Plans will teach your child a variety of dance techniques, taking inspiration from the topic of James Bond.

- Children will create movements to represent music.
- They will mimic the actions of James Bond.
- They will create movements focusing on tempo and rhythm.
- They will create a dance routine as a group.
- Finally, they will improve their dance routine.

Children in 4O will go swimming in place of Dance.

How you can help your child at home.

- Encourage your child to practise their dance routine at home.

Computing

The internet

In this unit, your child will recognise the internet as a network of networks including the WWW, and why we should evaluate online content.

Computing Strand:

Networks

Safety and Security

In this unit, children will:

- Describe how networks connect to other networks.
- Outline what the WWW is, that it comprises of websites and web pages and how information can be shared via this.
- Discuss the benefits and limitations of the WWW.

Art

Throughout this half term, we will be exploring what is meant by Still Life drawings through the use of different medium.

We will look at a variety of skills, which will help develop your child as an artist.

During this topic, we will look at various artists including the works of Georgio Morandi.

How you can help your child at home.

- Allow your child to research information about Georgio Morandi.
- Experiment sketching and drawing different objects from around the home.