

Curriculum Newsletter

Year 4

Autumn 2

The Mayan Civilisation



Welcome to year 4! Our topic this term is The Mayan Civilisation. As part of this topic we will be reading the Ancient Mayan myth, "The Hero Twins". The children, having touched on the subject as part of the previous topic, Chocolate. The topic will commence with the children mixing and tasting a chocolate drink such as the Mayans may have drunk (not the sweet, hot chocolate we may be familiar with today in London)! Also, year 4 will be benefiting from professional cricket coaching, as well as athletics taught by class teachers. This term, 4DD will be sharing our learning at the end of term.

The Goldilocks words are the key vocabulary the children will learn, understand and be able to use by the end of the topic. They are called Goldilocks words as they are not too easy, not too hard, but just right!

civilisation Mesoamerica sacrifice ritual primary source secondary source
codex codices maize blood-letting upperworld

This term's right is **Article 29 (goals of education)**. Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Key messages

Children should come dressed in PE kit on PE days. PE kit is a white top with black shorts or jogging bottoms.

4DD PE– Wednesdays and Fridays

4MG PE– Thursdays and Fridays

Homework will be Bug Club and Google Classroom maths tasks.

Ideas for home learning

Visit the British Museum website to see some Ancient Mayan artefacts.

Find and read other Mayan myths.

In Maths we will be:

- Continue using the column method to add and subtract.
- Explore measurements and different units of measure- focusing on length.
- Use our understanding of length to measure and record perimeters of shapes and objects.
- Begin multiplying numbers by 10 and 100.
- Solve problems involving multiplication and addition.

In Topic we will be learning:

- The importance of the Mayan Civilisation
- about Mayan gods and religious ceremonies.
- about their number system and how it compares to ours.
- about their diet and how it differs from ours?
- How explorers discovered them and the impact it had on their society.
- Where in the world they lived?
- What was Chichen Itza?

In English we will be:

- Reading the Mayan Legend – The Hero Twins.
- Making predictions about the story and hot-seating.
- Writing instructions, letters, non-fiction reports and narrative.
- Summarising the information from the text.
- Continuing to write in paragraphs, use fronted adverbials and to use expanded noun phrases.

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Our Topic is...

The Mayan Civilisation



In PE we will be:

- Learning the skills of cricket from a specialised coach
- Developing athletic skills: speed walking, jumping, sprinting, relays and throwing.

In Computing we will be:

- Program in logo to create more complex algorithms
- Children to investigate using repeat to create loops.

With our Musitrax teachers we will be:

- Learning the basics of Reggae samba music.
- Exploring new melodies and rhythms.
- Playing tunes and untuned instruments

In Science we will be:

- learning about electricity.
- learning about electrical and non-electrical appliances.
- explaining how circuits work.
- naming conductors and insulators and creating our own simple circuits including some with a switch.

In RE we will be:

- Learning about Guru Nanak and the Gurus.
- Understanding the importance of Guru Har Gobind and why he is remembered by Sikhs at the festival of Diwali every year.
- Understanding the practicalities of wearing the 5 Ks and how they make people visible.