

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 4 Spring Term Overview

We hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready for an exciting spring term ahead. Below is an outline of the key topics and activities we will be covering in Year 4 this term:

CbIDS

This term our CbIDS aspects of orderly growth include: We are here to enjoy, Purification, Knowledge, Integration, Stability and Adaptability.

Mathematics

In the spring term, Year 4 will focus on a variety of important mathematical concepts. They will develop their skills in multiplication and division, learning how to solve problems and work with larger numbers. They will also explore length and perimeter, where they will measure and calculate distances around different shapes. In addition, Year 4 will deepen their understanding of fractions, learning to compare, add, and subtract them. Finally, they will begin working with decimals, focusing on the relationship between decimals and fractions and how to add and subtract them..

English

This term, we will be exploring stories that raise important issues, such as *The Great Kapok Tree* and *The Shaman's Apprentice*, to discuss environmental and ethical themes. The children will also develop their report-writing skills by studying factual texts, including *Wolves in the Walls* and *Wolves*. Later in the term, we will focus on persuasive writing, using *Zoo* and *The Rainbow Bear* to debate the ethics of zoos. This unit will be complemented by an educational trip to the zoo, where we will reflect on the question: *Are zoos ethical?*

Science

Spring 1 – Sound

In the spring term, Year 4 students will explore two exciting science topics: sound and electricity. In the 'sound' unit, they will learn how sound is made, how it travels, and how we hear it. Through practical experiments, they will investigate pitch, volume, and how sound behaves in different environments.

Spring 2 – Electricity

The second topic, 'electricity,' will introduce Year 4 to the basic concepts of electrical circuits. They will learn about components such as batteries, bulbs, and wires, and how to build simple circuits. Students will also explore the safety rules for using electricity and understand its importance in everyday life.

History – Spring 1

In history this term, Year 4 students will explore the Ancient Egyptians. They will learn when the first civilizations of Ancient Egypt appeared and how long they lasted, comparing this period to others they have studied. The children will investigate daily life in Ancient Egypt, including farming, religion, and the River Nile, and explore how religion influenced every aspect of life. They will also study the process of mummification and the beliefs behind it. Additionally, students will use secondary research to explore hieroglyphics and understand how ancient Egyptians communicated through writing.

Geography – Spring 2

In Geography this term, Year 4 students will study volcanoes and the impact they have on people and the environment. They will explore what volcanoes are like and consider what it is like to live near Mount Etna, one of the most famous active volcanoes. Students will learn how volcanic activity can affect people around the world and understand the causes of earthquakes and tsunamis. They will also discover where earthquakes occur, why they happen, and how these natural disasters affect the lives of those who experience them.

Art - Spring 1

This term, the children will explore two exciting art pathways: 'Still Life' and 'Sculpture, Structure, Inventiveness, and Determination'.

In Still Life, they will learn about this traditional art form, still popular today, by developing their observational drawing skills and creating projects using paint or collage. Along the way, they will explore how line, shape, colour, texture, form, and composition bring their work to life.

In Sculpture, Structure, Inventiveness, and Determination, they will build on their drawing and sculpture skills while learning to embrace challenges and experiment without fear of mistakes. Inspired by how birds build nests, they'll create their own drawings and sculptures, discovering creativity, persistence, and the joy of making art.

D.T. - Spring 2

In Design Technology this term, Year 4 students will develop their creativity and practical skills by designing and making their own aprons. This project will involve exploring fabrics, practicing sewing techniques, and learning how to follow a simple pattern. Through this hands-on activity, students will enhance their understanding of textiles and the design process, fostering both independence and teamwork as they bring their ideas to life.

Computing

Spring 1 - programming

In this first programming unit of the year, Year 4 students will explore the concepts of repetition and loops in programming. They will learn how to create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to design shapes and patterns. The children will use Logo, a text-based programming language, to help them understand how these loops work and how they can be applied to create interesting designs and solve problems.

Spring 2 - Data and information

In this unit, Year 4 students will learn how and why data is collected over time. They will explore how humans use their senses to experience the world around them and how computers can use special devices called sensors to monitor the environment. The children will collect their own data and also access data that has been gathered over long periods. They will learn about data points, data sets, and how often data is logged. As the unit progresses, students will use computers to review and analyse data, and they will also pose their own questions, using data loggers to automatically collect the information needed to answer those questions.

Music - Spring 1

In music this term, we will focus on the song "Stop!"—a rap about bullying. This unit will explore the themes of bullying while developing musical skills through a range of activities. Year 4 will engage in singing, playing musical games, and composing their own music, all while learning about the different elements that make up a song, such as rhythm, melody, and harmony.

Religious Education (RE) - Spring 2

In RE, we will explore the theme of *Belonging to a Community*. We will reflect on what it means to be part of various communities, the values that unite people, and the importance of respect and understanding.

Other important information

P.E this term will be on Thursdays. PE will be off site during this time.

I will set homework on a Friday and the children will be expected to complete and return the work by the following Friday.

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school and a healthy snack can be brought for morning break time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Allan Lowrie

Year 4 Teacher