



# Year 4/5 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

It has been lovely to welcome the children into Year 4/5! They have already shown great enthusiasm for our learning, and we are making a great start. We would like to share with you some of the exciting learning that we have planned for the upcoming term.

The staff in Year 4/5 are Mr Smith, Mr Painter and Mrs Ainsley, alongside Mrs Grey and Mrs West. Mr Newton, Joanna and Ross from DF Coaching will continue to deliver music and PE on a Wednesday morning.

## **Curriculum**

Our topic focus for this next half term will be History where the children will answer the enquiry question, 'What was the impact of the Romans in Britain?' We will develop our historical skill and enquiry to use and analyse historical sources and develop conclusions. After the half term, we will focus on becoming geographers as we explore South America and consider how it is so diverse. Our topic is the driver for our wider learning, however previous topics and wider 'Deepening Knowledge' activities support retrieval and the connection of knowledge.

## **English**

Our English work will be mainly linked to our Romans topic. The children will enjoy reading and writing about the different events of the period. We will use the texts 'My Family and Other Romans' by Marie Basting and 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit to support writing a range of genres. These will include: a diary entry, persuasive letter, narratives, and newspaper reports. As well as this, the children will also complete a double page spread as an opportunity to research and share their wealth of knowledge. After half term, moving through into our South America topic, we will be using the text 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell and the Mayan Myth 'The Hero twins: Against the Lords of Death' to support our writing including instructions, narratives and scene comparisons.

Daily English lessons support the children to develop their spelling, grammar and composition supported by adaptable task design and quality-first teaching. Through the week, there are regular opportunities to write creatively, edit and peer assess enabling the children to see themselves as writers.

## **Maths**

Maths will follow the White Rose framework and the children will experience a range of fluency questions, reasoning, problem-solving activities and investigations. Alongside age-appropriate coverage, tasks are designed to both support and challenge all pupils. Representations and practical resources are used frequently alongside established oracy routines to deepen learning. Place value and the four operations are the main focus of learning during this term and children will also develop their understanding of factors, multiples, prime numbers and how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000.

A solid understanding of times tables facts (including related division facts) is key to success in all areas of the Maths curriculum so any support you can give your child with securing their knowledge of times tables would benefit them greatly in school. While Year 5 will be consolidating and applying their multiplication facts, Year 4 children will need to ensure recall of all tables to 12x12 ready for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC).

## **Science**

Our science topic for this half term will be forces. Children will have the opportunity to become physicists. Children will have a clear understanding of how different forces such as gravity, friction, air resistance and water resistance act on objects and carry out investigations to explore these forces.

Next half term, the children will be biologists, linking to their topic of Animals Including Humans. Pupils will be given frequent opportunities to develop scientific enquiry through practical work with a skills-driven focus.

## **Computing**

The Computing focus for this half term is e-safety. The children will explore online relationships, online reputation, how manage online information and the importance of privacy and security.

## **History and Geography**

Our first History topic is the Romans and the children will be looking at a range of primary and secondary sources to determine information about this time period. The children will learn about key inventions from the time and the impact that they have had on our lives today. We will also explore the reasons why the Romans invaded Britain, the spread of the Roman Empire across Britain and how Roman life has influenced Britain today.

As part of our South America topic, the children will explore human and physical characteristics of the region, discuss the importance of natural resources and how the process of importing and exporting resources is vital for the area. We will also have the opportunity to use Digimaps, which will help the children understand climate zones and have experience using a variety of topographical maps.

### **Art/D&T**

Mrs Wood will be teaching art across Year 4/5. Within the first half term, Mrs Wood will be reestablishing the core principles of art (based on the theme of nature).

Linking to design and technology, the children will be researching designs and making a prototype of their own Roman catapult, incorporating a linkage mechanism before using woodwork techniques to construct their final product.

After the half term, as part of our South America topic, we will be preparing, cooking and tasting some delicious traditional food from the region.

### **Music**

Mr Newton will be delivering music sessions each week and has planned cross-curricular lessons focussing on links to the Romans and South America. The children will use their knowledge of Roman Numerals to create cords from scales. They will use staff notation to compose and perform pieces of music on keyboards as well as identifying structure and lyrical content from a variety of pieces.

### **PE**

P.E. will take place every Wednesday morning (delivered by DF Coaching and Miss Joanna) with sessions this term covering tag rugby, Basketball and dance. Some of these sessions will be outdoors (weather permitting). Please ensure appropriate footwear and sportswear is worn to school. The children will take part in a second PE session on a Thursday (outdoor weather permitting).

### **RE/PSHCE**

Religious Education will be delivered weekly in a designated RE assembly. This half term, the children will focus on the rules of Christianity.

The theme for weekly PSHCE lessons will follow the Pol-Ed scheme, beginning to look at healthy friendships and relationships. Weekly Circle Time sessions on a Friday will also provide the opportunity to discuss personal goals, how to keep safe and healthy (including online) and British Values such as democracy and tolerance.

### **Homework**

Paper copies of the homework will be handed out each **Friday** and are to be returned by the following **Friday**. This will be a combination of Maths, Reading and SPaG, with the occasional writing challenge too. As per school policy, if homework is not completed, without prior reason, then the children will complete it in their Golden Time. The weekly homework affords an opportunity to consolidate and deepen learning in Maths and English topics covered in school. Any misconceptions and areas for development from the homework will be discussed with children in class. We would also encourage children to read as much as possible at home during the week.

### **Golden Time**

Golden Time takes place on a Friday afternoon for twenty minutes and rewards those children who have followed our school Golden Rules throughout the week. Golden Time is planned for, with activities suggested by the children themselves.

### **Extra-curricular**

This year, the children will be accessing a range of clubs across Key Stage 2 on a lunchtime. Regular opportunities will also be taken to give the children exciting enrichment opportunities (including within their local area). These have previously included: Science club, craft club, board games, book club and football. We do ask that if the children are accessing athletics club or football club during the week, that they bring a change of clothes and trainers, as they will be outside in all weathers. Children that are part of the Year 4 cohort, will also soon receive information about upcoming swimming sessions.

Please feel free to bring to school a healthy snack. We can often provide a healthy snack for PRIME time, but this is dependent on the fruit we receive in school as part of our deliveries.

We are looking forward to a first half term of exciting and memorable learning opportunities in Year 4/5!

Please view our Instagram page (@yarmprimary) to keep up to date on all the exciting events, learning and opportunities the children are receiving throughout the year.



If you need to contact us for whatever reason, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office or catch us at the end of the day. Appointments can be made if time is needed to discuss a matter.

Thank you very much for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Year 4/5 team