



Dear Parents,

**Happy New Year!** It is lovely to welcome the children back after their Christmas break and we look forward to developing their continued positive attitude towards learning in the Spring term.

**Curriculum:**

Our main topics this term are MOUNTAINS and THE MAYANS. In our first topic, we will start by looking at the different types of mountains, how they are formed and their locations around the world. As Geographers, we will develop our research and map skills, using Digi mapping software, in order to answer our enquiry question, "Why aren't mountains everywhere?" After the half term break, we will deepen our historical understanding through learning about the Mayans. We will explore their culture, their location and influence on the world around us (such as chocolate and fair trade).

**English:**

In English, we will explore the text 'First to the Top' and write various genres linked to the feat of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. We will then explore and write different text types linked to mountain formation as well as a newsworthy discovery. After the half term, as part of our Mayans topic, the children will engage in a range of child-friendly, traditional Mayan texts, which will explore Mayan life and culture. These texts will be used as a stimulus for drama, vocabulary building and writing a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. There will be a continued emphasis on grammar, punctuation and spelling in the daily English lessons. It will be encouraged that these sentence types and grammatical features are used regularly within the children's writing. Thirty-minute writing challenges will continue to showcase the children's pride in their writing and allow them further opportunities for creative expression.

**Maths:**

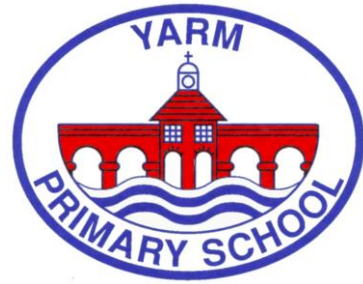
Maths will continue to follow the new White Rose framework. Multiplication, division, area, fractions and decimals are the main areas of learning this term, with an emphasis on fluency, reasoning and problem solving. Multiplication tables will continue to be a major focus for Year 4. It is **very** important that the children have rapid recall of multiplication tables and can also derive the associated division facts. Children will also be challenged with speed tables, as we aim for the children to recall their tables within 5 seconds. We would appreciate your continued help with assisting your children to learn these at home, if you require any help with how you can approach this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Science/STEM:**

In Science, we will be chemists to study States of Matter: looking at the properties of solids, liquids and gases and changes (such as condensation and evaporation). We will also learn about the water cycle and how these processes influence it. After half term, the children will become physicists to explore sound. They will learn how it is produced, how they can change it and investigate how it changes with distance and materials used. Alongside this, the children will regularly revisit and deepen prior knowledge as well as have the opportunity to attend a weekly Science Club. As well as this, the children will take part in an exciting STEM project where they will design their own alarm system. High-quality resources will support the children in researching, designing and making a product. The children's products will then be showcased at our next 'Open Door Friday'.

**Computing:**

The Computing focus for this half term is 'Word processing and Presentation'. The children will enhance their skills within Word and PowerPoint to create a persuasive poster and presentation as well as edit photographs. The key messages of online safety will continue to be reinforced in discrete lessons and across the wider curriculum. After half term, the children will use coding



software to create a game and debug code. They will then get the chance to play each other's games and suggest improvements.

#### **Art and DT:**

We will be exploring the artist of Paul Cezanne this half term, considering how he used blocks of colour to show tone within his paintings. Following this, the children will be creating their own Mountain painting. After half term, the children will use mannequins to explore how movement is shown within art. Our DT work/learning will be shown through our STEM Project.

#### **RE/PSHCE:**

Within our RE lessons, we explore various religions so that the children have a greater awareness of cultures and traditions linked to different faiths around the world. This half term we will learn about Diwali in both Sikhism and Hinduism, comparing how the festival is celebrated. After the half term break, we will move on to look at Christianity and why Christians celebrate Easter. In PSHCE, we are currently exploring children's rights and responsibilities (both in school and at home) as well as considering who helps to look after and care for us. We will then move on to consider how outside factors (such as social media, our friends and our family) influence our health and wellbeing.

#### **PE:**

This half term we will be taking part in Tees Valley Let's Dance programme, which will guide the children through a dance sequence that will be built up over a number of weeks. Later in the half term, both classes will have the opportunity to go swimming again, but we will inform you of the dates closer to the time. With DFE coaching, the children will learn the rules of tennis, badminton and football. These sessions will be outdoors (weather permitting). Please ensure the children have the correct kit.

#### **Homework:**

Homework will be set every **Friday** and we expect this to be completed/returned via Class Dojo by the following **Thursday**. 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 will aim to consolidate current or previous learning linked to either Maths or English. We appreciate that some of the methods that we use may be unfamiliar to you, so if you need any help with how to support your child with their homework please get in touch and we would be happy to help. All children have opportunities to read in school on a daily basis; however, we would like all children to read at least three times a week at home. We have encouraged the children to develop more independence around this by asking them to complete reflections on the characters, plot or comment on any vocabulary that has stood out to them. Times tables are an integral part of the Year 4 curriculum and it is expected that children know all their times tables by the end of the year. It would be beneficial to regularly spend time learning these throughout the week, which can also be supported through Times Table Rockstars.

#### **Enrichment:**

Year 4 have the opportunity to attend a Science Club and a DT club this half term (during lunchtime). This will change regularly so that the children have a wide range of clubs to interest them. During the half term, we will also be attending a Science show at Yarm School's Princess Alexandria Auditorium.

We are looking forward to what we are sure will be an exciting year, filled with great learning experiences! Please follow us on our school Twitter account, which you can access via our new school website, to see all of the wonderful things that we will be doing.

We thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a fabulous term.

Year 4 Team