



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents,

We hope you have all had a lovely relaxing Easter break. We have another busy term planned, and hopefully this newsletter will give you a flavour of our future learning.

Curriculum

This half term, our topic will have a history focus as the children learn about how technology has evolved over time and consider whether technology improves our lives. Alongside this, we will be looking back in time 'making connections' to the world's great technological developments and discoveries. We will learn about the earliest great breakthroughs, how we use technology today and how technology may influence and impact our lives moving forward. There will be a clear science link through the topic as we learn how great scientists and inventors have shaped the world we live in today. Where possible, learning will be linked to the topic to enhance the children's knowledge, however some lessons are delivered as discrete lessons. We will be using a range of quality texts to support our learning (including Ava Twist: Scientist and Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code) as well as writing in non-fiction (such as through writing an instruction text on how to make a circuit).

After half term, we will be exploring Europe- focusing on the similarities and differences between the culture, climate, human and physical landscape, as well as further developing our geographical awareness of bordering countries, capital cities and surrounding bodies of water.

Within English, we will explore European fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Anderson, finding comparative themes and features of these before writing our own playscripts. As well as this, we will choose one of the fairy tales that we have learnt and adapt it into a play script, which will give us the opportunity to further build on the excellent drama skills that we have developed through the year. We will also explore traditional European narratives (such as Le Petit Prince) and use short films to drive our creative writing. Within our non-fiction writing, we will explore a famous European capital city/country creating a persuasive and engaging piece to share with the class.

There will be a continued emphasis on grammar, punctuation and spelling within the daily English lessons. Our spelling sessions will explore common spelling patterns as well as learn words from the statutory Y3/4 spelling list (which you will find within your child's reading record.) The children will also have an opportunity for DEAR Time (Drop everything and read) daily, where they have the chance to quietly enjoy their own reading book or explore an educational newspaper, poetry book or topic book. We will continue to ensure the children are challenged, encouraging them to select books from a range of genres and time periods to widen their reading experiences.

Maths will continue to use the White Rose framework, alongside supplementary resources as the children experience a range of fluency questions, reasoning, problem solving and investigations. Decimals, measurement, time, statistics and geometry are the main areas of learning this term, however the children will regularly revisit prior learning to deepen and consolidate their knowledge of number, including fractions. Multiplication tables will continue to be a major focus in Year 4. It is **very** important that the children have rapid recall of multiplication tables and can also derive the associated division facts. We would appreciate your continued help in aiding your children to learn these at home, if you require any help with how you can approach this, please don't hesitate to contact us.

In science, we will become physicists as we explore the fascinating world of electricity. The children will learn about the processes involved in electricity, the appliances that run on them, create their own simple circuits, learn about different electrical symbols and investigate conductors and insulators. Following this, we will deepen our scientific learning through revisiting prior areas of learning and completing a range of skills-based investigations. The children will also continue to learn about key scientists (such as Alessandro Volta and Nikola Tesla) involved in linked major discoveries.

Within their computing lessons, the children will become directors, creating stop motion animation before filming their own show video using a green screen. They will continue to develop their understanding and skills when using iMovie and Apple Clips. We will also be extending the children's coding skills, when we write and debug code within Scratch to build a maze game.

As historians, the children will use pictures, videos as well as other sources of evidence to explore different forms of technology and consider how they have evolved over time. They will also explore their impact in the modern world and whether they are essential for modern life or a luxury. They will compare and evaluate technological discoveries, observing how they have changed over time and the impact that they have on our lives. In geography, we will be developing the

children's geographical knowledge - locating capital cities, countries, continents as well as lines of longitude, latitude and the equator. In addition, we will use digital mapping software to identify topographical features (such as human and physical features as well discussing trends around climate patterns).

Art and DT will be delivered through these topic themes and enable the children to create digital pop art inspired by Andy Warhol. They will also create European sculptures (inspired by Barbara Hepworth) as well as cook and taste some European cuisine. Mr Newton will continue to deliver the music sessions each week where the children will be exploring European music and comparing electric and acoustic instruments, through learning about the history of music.

Religious Education sessions will be weekly as part of our year group assemblies. This term the children will focus on Buddhism, learning about traditions and beliefs as well as developing respect and understanding for different cultures. Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) will include learning about how their bodies change with puberty, discussing the importance of hygiene and menstruation. We will continue to promote Social and Emotional aspects of learning through weekly Circle Time session, where we will discuss personal goals, keeping safe and healthy, building positive friendships and providing a space for them to discuss their feelings about transitioning to Year 5.

P.E. will take place every week (on a Wednesday) with sessions this term covering athletics and football, as well as another block of swimming. School PE sessions will be outdoors (weather permitting). Please ensure appropriate footwear is worn to school. We will also have a dance or gymnastics lesson each Thursday, which will typically be inside.

Homework:

Homework will be set every **FRIDAY** and we expect this to be completed and returned via Class Dojo by the **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 in school 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 will 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.

Prime Time

Please make sure the children have a named water bottle in school and they may bring a small healthy snack (fruit, vegetables or breadsticks) to eat during Prime Time if they wish.

We are looking forward to what we are sure will be an exciting term, filled with great learning experiences! Please follow us on our school Twitter account to see all of the wonderful things we will be doing.

Year 4 team