



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Term 1



Maths

In Year 4 this term, we will be learning to use the column method to add and subtract numbers accurately.

The children will learn how to line up numbers according to their place value. We will practice exchanging when needed and develop strategies for checking our answers. The children will also apply the column method to solve a range of word problems and real-life calculations.

This will help them become more confident and accurate when working with larger numbers.

RE

The unit for the first RE term this year is 'Humanism'. A non-religious worldview that focuses on people and how we can live good and meaningful lives.

We will explore Humanist values such as kindness, fairness, respect, empathy and responsibility.

We will discuss how these values can help us to treat others fairly and make positive choices in our everyday lives.

The children will also have opportunities to ask questions and consider different ideas and perspectives.

English

We will begin the term with a wonderful unit called 'The DreamGiver'. Loosely based on the BFG story, it tells the tale of a mysterious creature who wants children to have only good dreams. We will explore lots of dramatic writing devices such as metaphors and hyperbole, as well as work on building tension into our writing.

We will then work on a detailed non-chronological report on the topic of Wild Cats. We will research diet, habitat and threats to tigers and construct factual paragraphs using relative clauses, complex sentences and descriptive vocabulary. We will also have daily guided reading sessions as well as handwriting, spelling and sentence dictation.

Music

Our first music unit is all about sea shanties! We will explore the context, history, and purpose of sea shanties as work songs, as well as creating rhythm games and a class arrangement of 'What shall we do with a Drunken Sailor' using voices and instruments.

History

Our first history unit will take us back in time to the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and through to the Iron Age. We study what life was like for people and consider how Britain changed over time. We will look at the significant finds at Skara Brae, how evidence about Stonehenge can give us different answers about the past, and explain why hillforts were developed during the Iron Age.

Art

Our unit this term is all about the seaside! We will begin by recapping our watercolour techniques and then create watercolour paintings of a shell and fish. We will also learn how to draw shells in colour, as well as using ink and pencil techniques to draw fish.

Science

The unit for this term is 'Earth and Space'. Initially, we will describe the Sun, Earth, and Moon as approximately spherical bodies. We will then describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system.

We will also look at the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth and investigate the phases of the Moon. In addition, we will consider the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night, and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.

PE

Both of our PE units for this term will be outside. We have lessons focusing on "Fair, share, dare" in which we will practise following rules, taking turns and making courageous choices. We also have "invade, evade and capture" lessons focusing on movement skills by finding space, retrieving object and scoring points. PE is Monday (5KW), Wednesday, and Thursday or Friday (5PR). Please remember to pack a waterproof and warm clothing as the weather turns!

Computing

This term in Computing, we will be developing our understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. We will begin to explain the input, output and process aspects of a variety of different real-world systems. We will also take part in a collaborative project with our classmates and develop our skills in working together online.

Homework

Each week, children will be given a short arithmetic task to complete at home. These will be handed out on a Friday and should be returned the following Thursday. In addition, children will receive a list of spellings each term to practice and learn.

In addition to this, children are expected to read at least four times a week at home. They will be given a book matched to their reading level. Once they have finished their book, they will complete a short quiz in school which allows us to see how they are progressing.



Spanish

In Year 4, we will be learning about Spanish phonics and pronunciation, focusing on how letters and sounds work differently from English. The children will practice saying Spanish words clearly and confidently, paying attention to vowel sounds and key letter combinations. We will develop their ability to listen carefully and recognize sounds when hearing spoken Spanish.

PSHE

This term in PSHE, we are focusing on protective behaviors where we learn about our rights, responsibilities, class rules and how to keep ourselves/ others safe whilst ensuring we have a network of trusted adults with whom we can talk. We are also developing our understanding of how to stay safe by identifying risks in real life and how we can deal with peer pressure.