

Welcome to Year 4!

Within our Curriculum newsletter you will be able to find everything that we are going to be learning about this term, including what will be needed in terms of PE days and kit. We hope you find this information useful and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

Mr. McMeiken & Miss Hedge

English

This half term, we will be using the Pie Corbett Story of 'Staying out' to help us to write our own tales of fear with a focus on building suspense. We will look at similar stories to see how authors build suspense in their writing and use their techniques to help us write our own.



We will also think about how to write explanation texts. We will use a model text about how our food is digested which will help us to revisit some of our science learning from earlier in the year. We will use this text to help us to understand the structure and features of explanation texts before writing our own.

Maths

In Maths this term, we will be learning about:

- Decimals
- Measurement: Money
- Measurement: Time
- Statistics
- Geometry: Properties of shape
- Geometry: Position and direction



In addition to these units of learning, we will also be revisiting previously taught knowledge through our mixed-topic starter of the day.

Reading / Phonics

In reading this term, we will be using our Reading Explorers scheme to help us to develop:

- Literal retrieval skills
- Word knowledge and authorial word choice
- Deductive and inferential skills



In addition to this, we will have a daily 30-minute accelerated reading session to practice our independent reading skills and we will also have a D.E.A.R (drop everything and read) session where we listen to the teacher read a story that we have chosen together. This is our favourite part of the day!

Science

In science this term, we will learn about what sound is and how it is made, before giving your class the chance to investigate how sound travels, how it can be blocked, how different pitches can be attained, and much more!



After half-term, we will be learning about plants and animals in our local and wider environments. We will learn how to identify a range of British plants and animals, and how to classify organisms, including the use of classification keys. We will also consider why organisms live in different habitats and the impact, both positive and negative, that humans can have on environments.

History

In History this term, we will be learning about:

when and where the earliest civilisations appeared (including Ancient Sumer, Indus Valley, Ancient Egypt and the Shang Dynasty) and we will be introduced to the amazing achievements of each civilisation. We will explore when and why writing and number systems started to be used, find out how trade developed, investigate ancient structures such as the Egyptian pyramids and Sumerian ziggurats, as well as explore other inventions from the wheel to the toilet!



Geography

In Geography this term, we will be learning about: locational language used to describe locations around the world. We will also learn about the climate conditions in a range of different biomes, how food is produced, traded and transported and how fair trade organisations help farmers.



Art

In Art this term, we will be learning: Seurat, the father of Pointillism, and his famous Pointillist artwork, but we will also have the chance to create our very own Pointillism art projects using a range of techniques.



Design and technology

In D&T this term, we will be learning about: Why are certain foods in season at different times of year? Why is it good to eat seasonal food? How can we include seasonal food in a healthy, varied diet? We will be thinking about these questions and more, then cooking with using one of five detailed recipes.



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Music

In Music this term, we will be learning about:

The Beatles, equality and civil rights. Within this we will develop our knowledge and skills in:

- Listening and appraising
- Singing and playing largely in tune
- Improvising and composing music
- Performing

After half-term we will be learning about the history of music, looking back at our learning so far and thinking about musical vocabulary.



French

In French this term, we will be developing our vocabulary and skills in:

- Speaking and listening
- Reading
- Writing

Through the context of 'Brown bear'.

After half term we will develop the same skills within the context of 'what's the weather like?'.



RE

In RE this term, we will be learning about:

- How and why people show their care for others
- Why people visit Durham Cathedral today



Computing

In Computing this term, we will be learning about: repetition and loops within programming. We will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. We will use Logo, a text-based programming language.



We will also explore the concept of repetition in programming using the Scratch environment. It begins with a Scratch activity similar to that carried out in Logo in Programming unit A, where we can discover similarities between two environments. We look at the difference between count-controlled and infinite loops, and use our knowledge to modify existing animations and games using repetition. Our final project is to design and create a game which uses repetition, applying stages of programming design throughout.

PSHE

In PSHE this term, we will be following our JIGSAW scheme to learn about:

- Healthy me
- Relationships



PE

This term, our PE day will be a Tuesday. Children will need to come with appropriate clothing, including: a white t-shirt or polo shirt, navy blue shorts and black plimsols or trainers.

This term, our PE focus will be:

- Striking and fielding games (rounders)
- Athletics

Through these units we hope to develop gross motor skills and tactical understanding.

