

Spring Term – Year 4



Happy new year! We are really excited to welcome the children back into Year 4 and we are looking forward to working with them throughout the Spring Term.

The two year 4 classes continue to be taught by Mrs de Boer (4VdB) and Mr Draper (4JD). The classes are supported by Mrs Johnson and Mrs Gerrard.

If you have any questions, queries or worries at any point during this term, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the office or when you see one of us on the playground at the end of the day.

Maths

This term begins with place value - estimating, comparing, and ordering numbers up to five digits. We will then move onto fractions, starting with the fundamentals of what makes a fraction before exploring improper and mixed numbers. Following this, our measurement unit will focus on practical calculations involving money. To conclude the term, our geometry work will cover the properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, and polygons, finishing with a unit on reading and writing coordinates.

We will continue to encourage the children to use and apply their mathematical understanding across a range of mathematical areas in problem solving activities, alongside an emphasis on arithmetic skills and formal calculations. Emphasis will continue on weekly multiplication tables lessons, with the children being encouraged to practise times tables at home using Times Table Rock Stars.

History / Geography

Our first topic of the term is history based and focuses on the local shoe industry within Northamptonshire. In this unit, the children will develop their knowledge and understanding of the historical importance of the shoe industry in their locality and the changes that have occurred in recent times.

Our second topic is geography based and will link to an art project that Year 4 will be participating in within the second part of the spring term in collaboration with the National Gallery in London. There will be more information about this exciting work later on in the term.



English

We will start the term looking at a picture book called 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. Through this wordless adventure story, the children will explore setting descriptions and creating narratives of their own. Our second genre of writing will be poetry using a book called 'Cloud Soup' by Kate Wakeling, which will give the children the opportunity to explore a range of poetry structures and techniques. They will also have opportunities to perform poetry orally. Our final book for the term will be 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill, which is a non-fiction text. Grammar skills will be taught and embedded within the writing units of work. We will also have sessions of writing in different curriculum areas to allow us to use and apply our skills across the curriculum. There will be weekly spelling and handwriting sessions. Each week there will be a variety of reading sessions, including focused comprehension reading lessons, individual reading opportunities and a class text that will be read regularly. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home and to discuss their reading with you.



Computing

In our computing sessions this term, we will begin by looking at creating media using audio editing. In the second half of the term, we will be looking at programming using 'Logo', in which the children will learn how to use repetition and loops to create shapes and patterns.

The children will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of keeping safe online through e-safety sessions.

We will continue to use ICT throughout the curriculum to consolidate and embed the children's skills, knowledge and understanding in computing.



Science

Our first unit of work in science is 'electricity', in which the children will learn what electricity is, alongside the dangers and hazards of electricity. They will create electrical circuits using the component parts.

During the second part of the term, the children will explore 'sound', learning that sounds are made by vibrations and exploring how pitch and volume can be changed.

Within both units of work, the children will be given opportunities to explore science in a practical way to develop their knowledge and understanding.

PE

For the first half term, both 4VdB and 4JD will have PE on a Wednesday (Pacesetters) and Thursday (swimming).

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct PE kit on a Wednesday (white t-shirt, black shorts, jogging bottoms, a warm top and trainers) and brings their swimming costume, towel and hat into school in a bag on a Thursday.

The children are expected to wear their school uniform on a Thursday.



Religions and Worldviews

In our first unit of work this term, the children will continue to learn about the beliefs of Humanists using the question 'What do Humanists believe about leading a good life?'

In our second unit of work, the children will find out about what Christians learn about the incarnation of Jesus.



Other Curriculum Areas

The children will experience a range of different curriculum areas and opportunities in Year 4 this term. Alongside the curriculum areas already mentioned, they will also experience units of work in:

- Music - linked to the song 'Blackbird'
- French - My Family / In the classroom
- PSHE - Dreams and Goals / Healthy Me
- DT - Adapting a recipe - biscuits

We have an exciting project in Art linked to a National Gallery painting, which will be revealed later on in the term.

Homework

We were really impressed with how well the children responded to their homework tasks last term.

This term, we will continue to set homework on a grid with a range of activities linked to different curriculum areas from which the children can choose which tasks to complete. The children will be expected to complete a minimum of 4 tasks across each half term. There will be a separate grid of activities set for each half term.

We would like the children to continue to complete their homework in their homework books.

Alongside this, children will be expected to read at home either to, with you or alone. They will also be asked to continue to learn and practise their multiplication tables using Times Table Rock Stars.



Year 4 Reminders

- The school day starts at 8.50 am and finishes at 3.30 pm. The children come into school and leave through the cloakrooms. Please ensure children wear the correct school uniform to school and arrive in school promptly.
- PE days are Wednesdays and Thursdays - the children need to come to school in their PE kit on a Wednesday and they need to bring their swimming kit into school in a bag on a Thursday. School uniform to be worn on a Thursday.
- There is lots of information on the school website, including the Year 4 class pages. Look out for key information and dates on the Friday newsletters and within school letters.

We are here to help, so please contact us if you have any questions.

The Year 4 team.

Year 4 Reading Journey

In our reading sessions, Year 4 will be exploring a range of texts. Please encourage your child to read at home and to record their reading using 'track my read'.

