

Welcome to Year 4! Here is some information about our learning this term.



In Year 4!

This half-term term we will look at a text entitled 'Blue John' which will lead to us writing a letter from the viewpoint of an expert on cave formation. Throughout this term we will be consolidating the children's understanding of the Year 4 SPAG expectations and encouraging them to demonstrate what they have learned in their written work.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwxnb/articles/zmq9kmn>

The children will continue to edit their written work so supporting them in their use of a dictionary and thesaurus at home will be invaluable.

In the second half term, we will be reading a fictional adventure story set on a tropical island, linked to a true story, with a focus on creating dialogue between two characters and using small details to describe characters, time, place and mood. Ask your child tell you the five parts of a speech sandwich, and maybe practise some together?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zvftsbk>

We are continuing to use Reading Plus to teach the children reading skills such as comprehension, retrieval from a text and scanning so please use this at home on a regular basis. More importantly, please encourage your child to read for pleasure as often as they wish, as this will continue to build their confidence. Comics, novels, lists, encyclopaedias, biographies – there is something for everyone and once your child finds a genre they like, there will be no stopping them! The best way to do this is to pick up a book yourself as children copy what they see around them.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/1/100-best-books-6-8/>

Spellings will continue to be taught in class and an activity related to the week's learning will be sent home on a Friday to be returned to school the following week. You can also click here to find a list of words that Year 4 children should be able to spell with ease: [SpellingWordList_Y3-4.pdf \(oxfordowl.co.uk\)](#) How many does your child know? Choose a few that they can't spell yet to work on together. Homophones are also a focus for us as these can be tricky! For explanations, examples, quizzes and activities, visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqhp2p/articles/zc84cwx>

Our first music unit is based on a rap about anti-bullying in which the children will create their own verses and perform as a collaborative piece at the end. The second unit is based around soul and gospel music.

In DT we will be making 'Light up Landmarks' using electrical circuits. We will use our scientific skills to incorporate the use of a switch and a bulb. We would like the children to research landmarks and collect some pictures to use to inspire them with their projects.

In Art we will be focusing on producing layered prints using objects from nature. When out and about it would be wonderful if you could encourage the children to look for items which would be good to use for printing. Look for shape, size and particularly texture which would transfer well during the printing process. We will also be looking at the work of M.C. Escher, who produced some amazing pictures using tessellation. Was he an artist or a mathematician? Maybe the children could find out about some of his work.

Maths will largely be fraction and decimal based this term as we continue to use our multiplications facts and apply these to problems! To support at home, keep up with times table practice on TTRockstars, number bonds and times tables on Hit the Button and practice of methods will help too!

The children will be learning how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator, equivalent fractions and how to find these and how to find a fraction of a number. They will also focus on tenths and hundredths and the use of a place value chart. Take a look at this clip to see how we will teach this concept.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/fractions-ed51>

You will hear your child say 'exchanging' which may also be known as 'borrowing' or 'carrying over' from your time at school. They have used this terminology when adding, subtracting and multiplying in year 4.

Try these games to help your child with place value.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/place-value>

Times tables are VITAL to your child's learning! They have learnt all of their timetables during their lessons in school, so these now need to be embedded before June, which is when we carry out the MTC – multiplication tables check. You can practice one of these online tests here:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

What an exciting term ahead we have! In French, pupils will develop their reading and listening skills through the story of 'Bon Appetit Monsieur Lapin.' Aside from this, their writing skills will also develop as we create sentences of increasing complexity, building in verbs and adjectives. Why not have fun in making sentences as silly as possible? Can you listen to any French stories or songs and pick out vocabulary you already know? As always, linguascope.com is a fantastic resource to guide your child at home in furthering their confidence with the French language. Login details are available in class.

PSHE will focus on the concept of Dreams and Goals where we will look at aspirations and the emotions that accompany them. We will also look at 'Healthy Me'. This will include ideas about how to keep safe and healthy. We will consider the effects of smoking and alcohol on our health and how to develop and maintain healthy friendships. The following website might be a useful introduction.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrsb87h/articles/zg982nb>

This term we will be looking at (or should that be listening to) Sound. We will find out about how sound is made and how it travels. Here are some video clips which are interesting to watch.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/music--science-ks2-house-of-sound/zncr7nb>

Maybe you could have a go at making a string telephone and have some fun using it.

In the second half of the term we will explore Electricity. We will look at where electricity comes from and how to keep ourselves safe around it. It would be a great idea to look at electrical safety around the home.

<https://www.switchedonkids.org.uk/electrical-safety-in-your-home>

RE will focus on Jesus the Son of God, which incorporates the non-Christian faith of Shabbat. Following this will be a topic on Easter focusing on betrayal and trust.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-shabbat-day-of-rest/zrkvrj6#:~:text=Shabbat%20is%20the%20Hebrew%20word,night%20until%20nightfall%20on%20Saturday,&text=Keeping%20Shabbat%20holy%20is%20one.special%20place%20in%20Jewish%20life.>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-easter/zknqwx>

Humanities has a Geography focus this term and we are learning all about Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes. In our lessons we will find out about where they are and how they are formed. Maybe you could do some research into where the highest mountains in the world are and where the most recent volcanic eruptions have been.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/mountains-volcanoes-and-earthquakes-e02a>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0013c8m/bitesize-daily-911-year-olds-geography-910-year-olds-1-geography-mountains-and-volcanoes>

In Computing we will become musicians this term, using Garageband. The children will complete their own composition and performance. If you are fortunate enough to have an iPad, why not have a look for the app and create your own musical compositions.

We will also look at blogs, identifying the features of a good blog and writing and editing our own blog. We will look at how to comment on blogs, and how to add images and media.

In P.E. we will be learning how to play netball and how to effectively communicate in a game and how to use strategies to outwit our opponents. We will also be using our map skills to complete puzzles in our orienteering lessons. It would be wonderful to encourage children to look at the rules for netball at home as well as practicing their map reading skills! Later on in the term, we will also begin our swimming lessons, we will be learning different swimming strokes and how to stay safe in and around water. We will also begin our gymnastic lessons after half term were children will get the opportunity to explore bridges.