



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back to the beginning of the Spring Term! We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas break and would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. The children have settled back into their routines well and have shown enthusiasm for their new topics, beginning with 'The Mayans' and will be followed by a local Victorian based study of Wolverton. After half term, we will be holding parent consultation meetings for you to come and find out how your child is progressing in both English and Maths, but if you have any questions before this, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to seeing you soon,
The Year 4 Team.

Year 4 Teachers



Miss Williams



Mr Batchelor



Miss Baldwin



Mr Brown



Mrs Shirley

Subject overviews

English

During the first half term, we will be developing our narrative skills by writing in the rôle of a character and developing effective description linked to Roald Dahl's story 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' The children will then create a persuasive text aimed at persuading the reader to visit a chocolate factory. They will focus on developing words and phrases that capture their reader's interest and imagination by writing effectively for purpose.

After half term, we will be linking our English work closely to our Wolverton topic. We will be using the text 'The Railway Children' as a stimulus for our fiction writing including letters as recount text and a suspense narrative.

Throughout this term, we will continue to develop our grammar and spelling skills with focussed lessons, as well as reading chocolate themed texts to develop inference skills, supporting ideas using evidence from the text and identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning.

Maths

The children will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of topics in Maths including fractions, area and perimeter, pictograms and bar charts as well as units of measure. In the second half term, we will be focussing on number work including ordering, counting on and rounding. We will also be looking closer at multiplication and division problem solving before ending the term with a focus on time. The children will also continue to practise their written methods with a dedicated calculation lesson each week.

Throughout this term, the children will be given regular opportunities to practise and embed their times tables facts and we encourage the children to practise regularly at home to help earn their Times Tables certificates.

Science

This term we will be investigating 'Electricity'. We will be looking at electrical symbols, how to draw circuits and creating our own electrical circuits to power bulbs, buzzers and small motors. We will also be investigating the conductivity of a range of materials. After half term, we will consolidate our understanding of the topic by designing and creating our own electrical circuit loop game!

Computing

Over the course of the term, the children will be learning how to programme our own educational games. The children will be using their skills in computing to use the software 'Scratch' to experiment with designing and using coding blocks to instruct the characters. After this, the children will be developing their researching skills alongside revisiting e-safety from earlier in the year.

Be the best you can be.

Homework

Reading

We ask that children read each day for 15 minutes. Each child in Year 4 has been issued with a level-appropriate reading book provided by school. It really helps their progress if they are heard regularly at home and we would be grateful if you could sign their Personal Log each time you hear them.

Maths

Maths homework will still be set on a weekly basis on a **Tuesday** and be collected the **following Tuesday**. Each homework can be accessed either online (using a MyMaths login) or completed on a worksheet provided.

Spellings

The children will continue to receive a new spelling list once a week on a **Tuesday**. The children will be tested on their spellings in their sets on the **following Tuesday**. **Please remind children to bring in their personal logs every day to school so that spellings practise can also occur in school.**

Homework Projects

We would like to say thank you for your support with the fantastic range of topic homework on last half term's topic 'Polar regions'.

This term your child will be set a homework linked to our learning across the curriculum about 'The Mayans.'

Thank you for your support with this and we look forward to seeing the children's learning. Further details will follow.

Subject overviews

Topic (History and Geography)

In the first half term we will have a History focus and will be learning about the Mayans. We will learn about the Mayan civilisation, their ways of life and how the history of this early non-European civilisation contrasts to British history.

After half term, our attention will turn to our local area of Wolverton and its unique and fascinating history. We will be learning how the town grew around the railway during the Victorian era. Linking to our topic of 'The Victorians', we will extend our knowledge by learning about the Industrial Revolution and the changes this brought to Britain. .

Design Technology (DT)

Linking to our Mayan topic, we will be designing and creating our own Mayan statues, working with clay and developing our skills of moulding and using tools for added effect. We will also develop our cooking skills by looking at the creation of chocolate sweets as well as a Victorian tea party.

Art

After the break, we will be linking our work in Art to the topic on the local area of Wolverton. We will focus on architecture including that of local buildings and structures. We will be looking at famous architects, including Robert Stevenson, who designed the Wolverton viaduct, and developing our own sketching skills by creating images of the viaduct.

RE and PSHE

By continuing our learning about the religion of Hinduism, we will be looking at the festivals celebrated including Diwali as well as key figures in the religion.

Our work in PSHE will be focussing on building communication strategies, developing resilience and fostering team work skills.

PE & Games

In Games sessions, the children will develop team work and communication skills in the context of tag rugby or basketball. During the indoor PE sessions on a Wednesday morning, the children will develop a dance sequence and in the outdoor sessions will be taking part in athletic activities.

Music

This term, the children will be exploring the different ways we can make sound. This will include developing our performance skills by combining four different songs. Later on in the term, we will explore the sounds we can make with recycled materials and combine this with work from earlier on in the term.

French

The children will create a short presentation about themselves. They will also look at the replies from the French link school and draft a response email. After half term, we will learn about traditional French festivals and traditions.

Upcoming Events in Spring 2019

- Assessment Week: Monday 4th February
- Beauty and the Beast production: Thursday 14th and Friday 15th February
- Parents Evening: Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March (further details to follow)
- Wolverton Museum and Wolverton walk: Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th March (further details to follow)

Please continue to check ParentMail for regular updates.