



Year 4
In Autumn 1 our topic is:
What was life like in Ancient Egypt?
The information below shows the areas of the curriculum we are covering this half term.



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Home Learning
<p>English</p>	<p>During the first half term, we are going to be focusing on the basic skills relating to sentence structure and punctuation. We will be deepening our knowledge and understanding of grammar and the functions of the words in sentences. This unit will support children to form grammatically accurate sentences and punctuate them correctly. This will also support children when they edit and improve their own writing. At the end of the term, we will showcase our knowledge and skills through writing a non-fiction text.</p> <p>Alongside this in our Class Reading lessons, we will be reading 'How to Train your Dragon'. We know the children will love reading and exploring this popular fiction text.</p>	<p>Children are given time to read in school and are expected to read at home also. We would like children to read at home and get their reading record signed at least 3 times a week. Exposure to a range of texts including magazines, comics, non-fiction texts, poetry etc. will help to develop their fluency and understanding. Please support your child at home by encouraging them to read and sharing their books with them.</p> <p>You could even watch the film 'How to Train Your Dragon' (which is based on the book) and ask your children how it is similar and different to what we have read in school.</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>In maths this half term, we will be focusing on Place Value, Position & Direction and Addition & Subtraction of 4 digit numbers and using the inverse to check our answers. The children will practise their times tables regularly, as well as having a weekly timetabled slot to access Times Table Rockstars using the class set of iPads.</p>	<p>By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of the times tables and related division facts. There are many ways to practise these such as online games, songs, writing them down and verbally rehearsing them. Children are encouraged to use Times Tables Rockstars as much as possible to help improve their times tables.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>In science this half term, our topic is Sound. We will learn about the way sound travels, how it is made, the effect volume has on the vibration and what 'pitch' is and how and why it changes. Children will also carry out a string telephone experiment to find out which material makes sound travel better, and then use rice on a drum to investigate vibration and volume. We will be taking science outside during this topic, testing and finding out how far different sounds travel.</p>	<p>Discuss different sounds when out and about. Are there any different sounds which are at different pitches? Are there any sounds which vibrations have affected? Access this website to find out how children can easily create their own telephone using just paper cups and string! www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hMW6ZhIgbA</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>This half term we will be learning about the Ancient Egyptians. In school, we will develop our understanding of who the Egyptians were and how they lived their lives. We will also be comparing life as an Egyptian to life in modern England to explore the similarities and differences.</p>	<p>The children could research the hieroglyphic alphabet and write their name using the symbols! Could they write a secret message using this picture code?</p>

Religious Education	We will be looking at the way different religions show care for people, with particular reference to Christianity and Judaism. We will find out how a local church shows care for people, and look in depth at a charity or Christian organisation and what they do. This will be followed by looking at how care is shown through Judaism.	You could discuss what other religions may do to show care for others. Does anybody at home have any involvement in or support a charity?
Computing	Children will learn what debugging is and use what they learn to debug algorithms. Over the weeks they will use and investigate the different features of Sprite, including effects and scoring systems, which they will use to make a quiz of their own.	Encourage the children to look at different types of quizzes. Are there any effects and colours that look good which the children may want to use in their own work?
Physical Education	Our activity in PE for the half term is Tag Rugby. Children will learn the rules of Tag Rugby, how to pass and tag with the correct technique as well as developing their skills in order to successfully work as part of a team.	Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their full PE kit. This half term, Monday is our PE day. This should be black shorts, a plain white T-shirt and either trainers or plimsolls. Jewellery should not be worn for school as per the uniform policy, except for stud earrings, which must be removed (or plasters sent to cover them) prior to the lesson starting.
Music	The children will be learning how to compare and contrast structures in music. We will also learn a verse and chorus of a song to perform in groups as well as creating layers of music using percussion instruments.	Your child could research an Egyptian music composer and create a fact file about their type of music. They could also compare an artist from the past with someone from the present.
Art	In art we will be creating sculptures around the theme of exotic birds and eggs. We will explore the work of artists such as Cathy Miles before then designing and creating our own sculptures. We will use a range of materials such as foam board and Modroc. We can't wait to see the amazing sculptures the children produce.	Creating a sculpture using any materials that are available to you such as newspaper or straws. Can your child draw the birds in your garden or local park?
French	The children will develop their French vocabulary in the topic. They will learn how to say where they live, to count in 10s and to 100, my address is and in my town...	Children could investigate different places in France and how they compare to Darlington or other places in England.
PSHE	The children will be learning about what it means to be part of a team and all of the excitement and changes starting a new class brings.	Children can talk to adults about what they have been learning and discuss how those around them are part of their team and how people can help each other.