



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.



Year 4
In Autumn 2 our topic is:
Why are mountains magnificent?



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible Activities to be done at home
English	During our English lessons this half term, we will be finishing off 'How to Train Your Dragon' and completing another piece of writing using the text. We will then base our writing on a book we are sure the children will enjoy, called 'There's a Pharaoh in my Bath' written by Jeremy Strong. We will also be using a digital literacy story about Tadeo Jones, an Egyptian explorer. These fabulous texts will inspire the children's narrative writing and also be a great stimulus for a factual based report on the pyramids of Egypt.	Children are given time to read in school and are expected to also read at home. 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 reading together as often as you can to promote a love of reading and learning.
Maths	In maths this half term, we will be building on our prior learning of Place Value by learning how to add and subtract four-digit numbers using formal written methods. We will then move onto position and direction where we will learn to use coordinates and translate 2D shapes. Towards the end of the half term, we will be looking at bar charts and line graphs and understand how to read the data.	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 as this is set out like the times table test.
Science	In our science topic, we will be finding out about states of matter by learning about the differences between solids, liquids and gases. We will be classifying objects and identifying their properties as well as exploring in-depth how water changes state. Through an experiment on finding the ideal conditions for drying washing, we will learn about evaporation and the role of this process in the water cycle.	Encourage your child to discuss their learning about states of matter at home and see if they can identify examples of different solids, liquids and gases. Perhaps they could explore the ingredients you use in cooking that are solids or liquids or discuss what is happening to the water in the kettle when steam can be seen coming from it.
Geography	In Geography, we will be completing a range of lessons focusing on the question <i>Why are mountains magnificent?</i> We will learn about what mountains are and how they are formed, before learning more about some of the world's most famous mountains, such as those in the UK, Europe and across the world as a whole.	The children could conduct their own research surrounding mountains by producing a detailed fact file on a mountain of their own choosing.
Religious Education	We will be looking at the question, 'Why do Christians call Jesus the light of the world?' The children will learn about the symbolism and meaning of the phrase 'light of the world'. They will describe Christian's beliefs about Jesus and make links between religious ideas.	You could research the religion of Christianity at home and create a fact file around some of the information you find out.

Computing	We will be continuing our learning on debugging and how to apply our knowledge to debug paper algorithms. We will use and investigate the different features of Scratch, including effects and scoring systems, which children will then use to make a quiz of their own on the topics covered in geography.	Look at different types of quizzes. Are there any effects and colours that look good which the children may want to use in the classroom when they create their own quiz using their newly acquired computing skills?
Physical Education	Year 4 are developing our skills in gymnastics. This will include working on bridges, creating sequences and using apparatus. We will then be developing our athletics skills during sports hall athletics, including working on throwing, running and jumping. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their full PE kit.	P.E. Kit should be black shorts, a plain white T-shirt and either trainers or plimsolls. The children may also choose to wear leggings, joggers or a hoody as it gets colder. 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.
PSHE	The children will learn about 'Digital Wellbeing' and how they can stay safe and be responsible online or when using technology. They will think about how they can get along with other people and to appreciate everyone around them.	Talk to your child about being safe with technology. Talk to your child about their friends at school and how they can be a good friend.
Music	This half term the children will complete their learning on an ABBA based unit of musical activities. They will be learning to sing, play, improvise and compose within the well-known song 'Mamma Mia'. The children will also have the opportunity to listen to and appraise other ABBA hits. As well as this, we will be using a glockenspiel to help understand and develop our knowledge of rhythm.	Relive the ABBA hits with your child; listen to their hit songs together and decide upon family favourites, giving reasons for your preferences. 
DT	In DT, we will be creating a 'Moving Monster' using the concept of pneumatics. This will involve researching what pneumatics are and coming up with concepts in which we can use pneumatics to create moving parts.	Your child could complete additional research around the concept of pneumatics in preparation of our DT project.
French	Our topic this half term is 'I am able'. In this unit of study the children will learn to develop their conversational skills through some new learning and vocabulary based around action verbs, such as cooking or riding a bike.	Your child could practise speaking French at home and teach other people their new learning. They could create their own French dictionary to explain the meaning of new words learned.

Year Group: Y4

Term: Autumn 2 2024

Class Teachers: Mrs VE Jones and Mrs J Taylor

Executive Head: Mrs Z Beach

