

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Year 4 - Spring term

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BE YOUR BEST



Care



Challenge



Succeed



READING

The focus for the teaching of reading in Year 4 is largely on building fluency and engaging with lots of different texts looking at vocabulary, sentence structures, background, stories, non-fiction to build breadth and reading mileage. Daily story time sessions will include the amazing books: The Last Bear, The Butterfly Lion, How to Train your Dragon and The Girl who Stole an Elephant.



WRITING

Our creative fiction units for the Spring term will be based on The Last Bear - when the focus will be on implementing the features and techniques of characterisation and How to Train your Dragon - with a focus on action. Non-fiction units will be inspired by Life in Ancient Rome - features of an information text and Holiday Brochure - persuasive writing techniques. Handwriting and spelling will be taught in daily lessons.



MATHS

Maths learning, in this term, will begin by learning written methods for multiplication and division. The children will then use their their known multiplication facts to calculate and measure the perimeter of polygons and rectilinear shapes. The term will end by comparing and ordering mixed numbers and converting them to improper fractions. The children will then use their fractions knowledge to explore the relationship between fractions and decimals.



SCIENCE

The term will begin with children learning about different living things and their habitats in their Ecology unit. They will learn about food chains, producers, predators and prey and will focus on the threat humans pose to ecosystems. Children will also learn all about Sound. They will understand what sound waves are and the different between pitch and volume. They will extend their knowledge by learning about the ear and its relationship to sound.



HISTORY

In our history lessons, the children will learn all things Rome! They will begin by learning about life in Ancient Rome, including how the government and monarchy ran and the events surrounding the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in AD79. The children will then look at the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. This will focus on the Punic Wars, the Pax Romana period and key figures, such as; Julius Caesar and Caesar Augustus.



GEOGRAPHY

The children will explore the countries of Eastern Europe and key features such as rivers and climate. They will also compare the UK with an Eastern European country. They will form an understanding that Northern Ireland is a diverse place, with contrasting landscapes including rural and urban environments. Children will build on their map skills to look at the shape of the land and to identify key locations.



ART

The children will learn that design is how the elements of art (colour, light, line, shape, form, space and texture) blend together to form a piece of Art. Children will then study the work of Henri Matisse and Edvard Munch's The Scream. The children will focus on monuments in Rome, including the Colosseum, the Pantheon and Trajan's Column. They will then construct and paint their own cardboard versions of the Pantheon, learning how to Papier Mache.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Children will follow the design, make, use and evaluate process in order to make a miniature playground. Children will learn about gears, sprockets, electrical circuits and the intended users of their playgrounds before evaluating the success of their project.



PSHE

Children will be encouraged to share some their own goals and dreams. They will learn to explain what it means to be resilient and to have a positive attitude. They will learn to recognise when people are putting them under pressure and can explain ways to resist this when they want to. They will be supported in identifying feelings of anxiety and fear associated with peer pressure.



RELIGION & WORLDVIEWS

This term in RE, the children will begin by learning about Sikhism. They will look at the origins of the religion and will be introduced to Guru Nanak's message of equality. They will continue to explore key beliefs and teaching in the Sikh religion. The term will end with the children learning about Easter and the importance of this religious period for members of the Christian faith.



COMPUTING

The children will use the program Logo to program a screen turtle. They will then learn how to program letters and use pattern and repeat commands to create shapes. They will think about how code snippets can be broken down to make them easier to work with and combine their learning to create their own program. They will also learn about data collection and analysing for answers.



PE

During the Spring term, children will learn the skills needed to carry out gymnastics routines and exercises. They will also participate in athletics sports, focusing on a range of physical activities and building on fitness.



MUSIC

This term, children are introduced to Working Songs which have traditionally provided a rhythm to work to. Two types of working songs they will learn about are sea shanties and bhangra. Take the 'A' Train is the next unit which focusses on 4/4 off-beat, swing rhythms and pulse. The music of Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong are discovered and discussed in this unit.



Spanish

In Spanish, children will learn how to speak using pronouns for family members and how to describe their families using possessive pronouns. The children will also learn to count from 10 to 100 in multiples of 10.