

Year 4 Curriculum Overview

Autumn Term

The Romans



This leaflet aims to give you information on the curriculum the children will be covering during the Autumn term.

English

As readers, they will continue to use and apply phonics to support fluent reading, with a growing emphasis on reading for meaning.

In guided reading lessons, they will explore a wide range of texts, including fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction, and reference books. Where possible, they will make cross-curricular links to deepen understanding.

They will learn and apply the eight main strands of reading:

- ✓ Explain the meaning of words in context
- ✓ Retrieve and record information
- ✓ Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph
- ✓ Explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text
- ✓ Predict what might happen from details stated and implied
- ✓ Explain how information or narrative content contributes to overall meaning
- ✓ Identify and explain how meaning is enhanced through word choice
- ✓ Make comparisons within the text
- ✓

In addition to guided reading, they will read for pleasure, enjoying a wide selection of books from our in-class library. They will also be read to regularly, with this term's focus texts including:

- ✓ Historical fiction: *Escape from Pompeii*
- ✓ Modern fiction: *The Butterfly Lion* – Michael Morpurgo
- ✓ Adventure: *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman
- ✓ Classic Poetry: *Firework Night* by Enid Blyton
- ✓ Poetry: *Performance Poetry* – *The Dragon who ate our school*
- ✓ Non-fiction/reference books: *The Romans & Volcanoes*, *Electricity*, *States of Matter & Islam*

As writers, they will develop their understanding of audience and purpose, building on their grammar and punctuation knowledge. This term, they will enjoy a rich variety of reading and writing experiences across different genres.

Performance Poetry: They will bring poetry to life through *The Dragon Who Ate Our School*, developing confidence in expression and performance.

Diary Writing: Inspired by *The Butterfly Lion*, they will write diary entries and explore character perspectives, including innovating from Bertie's point of view.

Historical Writing: Linking to our Roman topic, they will write from the viewpoint of a Roman soldier.

Non-Chronological Reports: They will research and write reports on Roman roads, then innovate by creating their own piece about Roman baths and inventing a report on Taunton Museum.

Narrative Writing: Using *Escape from Pompeii*, they will explore stories set in dangerous settings, focussing on building suspense. They will innovate by adding and embellishing details, then invent their own narrative based on another volcanic eruption linked to geography.

Classic Poetry: They will study and respond to traditional poems, including *Firework Night* by Enid Blyton. Through these exciting units, they will develop key skills in reading, writing and speaking while making meaningful links to history and geography.

Spellings will continue to be taught through whole-class lessons, following national curriculum expectations.

Maths

As mathematicians, they will strengthen their understanding of number and calculation during fluency sessions.

- ✓ They will practise counting in multiples of 25, 1,000, and 7 from different starting points up to 10,000, using practical resources such as ten frames, bead strings, Numicon, and number lines.
- ✓ They will revise mental addition and subtraction strategies within 10,000, including reordering and finding complements. Times tables knowledge will be consolidated (2–12), with a focus on the 7 times table and related division facts, using strategies from our times tables practice guide.
- ✓ They will also develop confidence in formal written methods for addition and subtraction, apply bar modelling to solve word problems and represent calculations visually to deepen understanding.

By the end of Year 4, they are expected to recall and use multiplication and division facts for all times tables up to 12×12 .

During maths lessons, they will build on their understanding of number, calculation and problem-solving through a range of exciting topics:

- ✓ **Addition and Subtraction:** They will secure their skills in column addition and subtraction, starting with 3-digit numbers and progressing to 4-digit numbers.
- ✓ **Place Value:** They will deepen their understanding of numbers up to 1,000 and then move on to comparing, ordering, and rounding 4-digit numbers.
- ✓ **Measures:** They will learn to calculate and convert between different units of measure, applying their knowledge to real-life contexts.
- ✓ **Multiplication and Division:** They will explore the relationship between multiplication and division through times tables, focussing on 3, 6, 7, and 9. They will also investigate odd and even numbers, square numbers and how to represent multiplicative structures.

These units will help children develop fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills - preparing them for more complex mathematical concepts later in the year.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – Geography & History

As historians, they will explore the achievements of the Romans from 43 CE to 410 CE. They will begin by learning about life in early Rome, who held power across the Empire and how emperors trained their mighty armies.

The focus then shifts to the Roman invasion of Britain, comparing Celtic villages with Roman settlements and discovering how the Romans defended their new lands. They will also meet significant historical figures, including Boudicca and learn about her role in resisting Roman rule.

Finally, the unit concludes with a study of the decline of the Roman Empire, examining the key events that led to its downfall.

As geographers, they will use Google Earth to locate Italy and Rome and describe their position in relation to the UK. They will study physical geography, including mountains and volcanoes, by researching the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 and comparing it with other volcanic eruptions.

Weather and Climate

In this unit, they will review their understanding of weather and explore the differences between climate zones. They will learn about the six main climate zones and the typical weather conditions in each, recognising that the UK falls within the temperate zone while other countries experience different climates. To understand weather forecasts, they will study the symbols used to represent weather conditions and be introduced to instruments such as anemometers, rain gauges and thermometers; learning how each measures wind speed, rainfall and temperature.

They will then plan and carry out fieldwork, choosing which weather phenomena to observe and measure. They will collect and record data from the school grounds, make sensible predictions based on trends and analyse patterns in their findings. Finally, they will evaluate their fieldwork and reflect on what they have learned about weather and climate.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World – Science

As scientists, they will investigate the different states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. They will learn how materials change state when heated or cooled and explore the processes of evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.

Through hands-on experiments, they will observe how temperature affects these changes and develop their understanding of particles and how they behave in each state. This unit encourages curiosity and scientific thinking while linking learning to real-life examples.

Computing

As computer experts, they will develop their understanding of how technology helps us collect and use information.

Data and Information: Data Logging

Linked to our Geography fieldwork, they will learn how to use digital tools to record and analyse data, such as temperature or rainfall. They will explore how sensors work and how data can be presented to help us understand patterns and make decisions.

Computing Systems and Networks: The Internet

They will discover how the internet works, including how information travels across networks. They will learn about web addresses, search engines and how to use the internet safely and responsibly. These units build essential digital skills and encourage children to think critically about how technology connects us and supports learning in the wider world.

Physical Development (PE)

This term, they will be looking at Invasion Games and Net/Wall games. This will involve learning the skills and tactics used in these games and experiencing small sided and simplified versions of these games. The focus will be on teamwork and fair play as well as improving skills of travel, sending, receiving, dodging, attacking and defending. They will have the opportunity to develop the skills they have previously learnt and put them into practice in match situations. They will also be looking into game rules and competitions.

Ourselves in the Wider World – RE & PSHE

In RE, they will explore the theme: "What do Muslim people believe about Islam (submission to the will of Allah) and Iman (faith)?" They will learn about the Messengers of Allah and celebrate cultural diversity, with a focus on the British Value of tolerance.

In PSHE, they will explore the school values of resilience and friendship. They will discuss what it means to belong to a community and how to be global citizens.

Later in the term, they will focus on three key themes that help children understand and develop healthy relationships:

- ✓ Families and People Who Care for Us – exploring the different types of families and the importance of love, care and support.
- ✓ Respectful and Kind Relationships – learning how to treat others with kindness and respect in all situations.
- ✓ Caring Friendships – understanding what makes a good friend and how to build strong, positive friendships.

These lessons help children develop empathy, respect and the social skills they need to thrive both in and out of school.

Online Safety

This term, they will learn how to stay safe and make positive choices online. Our focus will be on two key themes:

- ✓ Privacy and Security – understanding why it's important to keep personal information private, how to create strong passwords and ways to protect themselves when using digital devices.
- ✓ Online Bullying – recognising what online bullying looks like, how it can affect others and what to do if they or someone they know experiences it.

These lessons help children build confidence and responsibility when using technology, ensuring they know how to stay safe and treat others with respect online.

French

In French the emphasis is on speaking, listening, reading and writing as we continue to explore new language structures and sounds. Grammar will receive increasing focus in our written tasks as we identify the similarities and differences between English and French. We will build on prior knowledge to master French phonics and sounds, numbers, masculine and feminine nouns and adjectival agreements.

We will find out about starting school in France and, later in the term, we will build on prior knowledge to learn about Halloween and the Jour du Souvenir (Remembrance Day), in France. Towards the end of term, we will focus on the traditions connected to St. Nicolas and Noël.

Creative Development – Art & Music

As artists, they will explore the exciting technique of collagraph printing, creating designs that combine two or more motifs. Inspired by the work of the famous architect and artist Antoni Gaudí, they will experiment with texture and pattern to produce unique prints. As part of our Roman topic, the final outcome will be a striking printed Roman mosaic pattern, allowing children to combine historical understanding with creative expression. This unit encourages imagination, design skills and hands-on creativity.

In Design Technology, they will develop their creativity and technical skills through two exciting projects: Electrical Systems: They will learn how simple circuits and switches work, exploring how electricity powers everyday objects. Their final challenge will be to design and create a working bedside table lamp, combining practical skills with imaginative design.

Textiles: They will practise sewing and decorative techniques to design and make a Christmas decoration using blanket stitch to join felt, developing fine motor skills and an eye for detail. These projects encourage problem-solving, creativity and an understanding of how design meets function in real-world products.

As musicians, they will develop their rhythmic skills by learning to follow musical instructions and even take on the role of conductor. They will explore rhythmic notation through movement and songs such as Harvest Samba, building ensemble skills and creating a class composition using rhythmic motifs and grid notation. In Music Technology, they will learn how digital audio is recorded and edited. Using Soundtrap for Education, they will produce and edit their own podcast, add multiple tracks, and discuss copyright and ownership of digital content.

They will also learn and perform songs for Harvest and Christmas celebrations.

Homework

In addition to reading, weekly spellings, SPaG, and maths homework, they will receive a half-termly topic homework menu. This menu includes activities across the curriculum and they are encouraged to complete at least two, alongside an online safety and school values task. The aim is to immerse them in the topic, offering a varied homework experience that allows them to showcase different talents.

It is essential that they read regularly. This doesn't always have to be their school reading book—reading a variety of fiction, non-fiction, or everyday texts is equally valuable. Please ensure reading records are completed and brought to school daily.

Weekly spellings and homework will be sent home every Friday, with spelling tests the following week. Homework books should be handed in by Thursday.