

Year 4 Curriculum Overview

Autumn Term

Venturing through Italy



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

English

As readers, they will continue to use and apply phonics to help read fluently, but with more of an emphasis on reading for meaning.

In guided reading lessons, they will be exposed to a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books, where we capitalise on topics and make links where possible.

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:

- ✓ Fairy Tales: Fairytale by Terry Jones and mixed classics such as Goldilocks and Little Red Riding Hood.
- ✓ Classic Fiction: The Famous Five by Enid Blyton.
- ✓ Fantasy: The Iron Man by Ted Hughes.
- ✓ Poetry: Selections from 100 Best Poems for Children edited by Shelina Moxley.
- ✓ Non-Fiction & Reference: Exploring topics including Italy, London, Sound, and Christianity.

These texts will help children develop comprehension, vocabulary and a love of reading across different genres.

As writers, they will understand audience and purpose and will build on their existing grammar and punctuation knowledge. They will have many opportunities across the curriculum to write.

This term, they will explore a range of exciting texts and writing styles:

- ✓ Poetry: Writing cinquains, focussing on structure and descriptive language.
- ✓ Narrative: Katie in London – a journey tale with a focus on dialogue. Pupils will innovate by altering the original and invent their own story, Katie in Venice, linking to geography.
- ✓ Persuasion: Creating persuasive texts such as Visit Somerset, then innovating with Visit London and inventing Visit Campania, connecting to our geography learning.
- ✓ Mixed-Up Fairy Tales: Combining classics like Goldilocks and Little Red Riding Hood, focussing on characterisation. They will innovate by blending story types and invent their own mixed-up fairy tale.

These units develop creativity, vocabulary and key writing skills while making meaningful cross-curricular links.

Spellings will continue to be taught through our whole class lessons, following the National Curriculum expectations.

Maths

Maths – Spring Term: Number Fluency

This term, they will strengthen their number skills through a range of activities:

- ✓ Counting: Forwards and backwards in multiples of 7 and 11 up to 10,000 using practical resources such as ten frames, bead strings, Numicon, and number lines.
- ✓ Mental Strategies: Revising addition and subtraction within 10,000 using partitioning and recombining.
- ✓ Times Tables: Consolidating all tables up to 12×12, with a strong focus on 7s and 11s in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check.
- ✓ Formal Methods: Multiplication and division following the calculation policy.
- ✓ Problem Solving: Using bar models to represent and solve multiplication, division, and word problems.

These sessions aim to build fluency, confidence and problem-solving skills in preparation for more complex concepts later in the year.

As mathematicians, they will apply their knowledge and reasoning skills to tackle new challenges:

- ✓ Multiplication and Division: Using the distributive law to multiply efficiently, and learning to multiply and divide by 10 and 100.
- ✓ Measurement: Exploring perimeter and length through practical problem-solving.
- ✓ Fractions: Reviewing key concepts before moving on to:
- ✓ Understanding fractions greater than one.
- ✓ Ordering mixed numbers and placing them on a number line.
- ✓ Adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers.
- ✓ Converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers.
- ✓ Using efficient strategies to solve fraction problems.

This term focuses on building fluency, accuracy and confidence in applying mathematical strategies to real-life contexts.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World - Geography

As geographers, they will learn how the world is represented on maps and deepen their understanding of places. They will identify the countries and capital cities of Europe, recap the countries and cities of the UK, and then focus on Italy, exploring its key human and physical features before studying the region of Campania in detail.

Pupils will investigate plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes, completing two case studies on Campania. Using this knowledge, they will compare Greater London with Campania, identifying similarities and differences between the two.

This unit combines map skills, geographical knowledge, and real-world case studies to help children understand how physical processes shape human life.

Creative Development

As artists, they will explore the art of watercolour painting, developing techniques to create depth, tone and texture. Inspired by the works of Giovanni Antonio Canal (Canaletto) and Paul Cézanne, pupils will study how these artists captured landscapes and architectural detail.

The final outcome will be a beautiful Campania scene, linking to our geography topic on Italy. This project combines creativity with cultural understanding, encouraging children to express their ideas through colour and composition.

This term in Design Technology, they will explore shell structures, learning how to design and construct strong, functional 3D forms. They will investigate how materials can be shaped and joined to create stability and durability.

The final outcome will be a pizza box, where pupils apply their knowledge of nets, folds, and reinforcement techniques to produce a practical and well-designed product. This project combines creativity with problem-solving and real-world application.

As musicians, they will explore the exciting world of musical contrasts: staccato and legato, forte and piano, major and minor. They will begin with songs and activities that investigate different instrumental timbres, learning how instruments are grouped into orchestral families such as strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion. Listening to pieces like *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* by Benjamin Britten will deepen this understanding.

Through singing and listening games, pupils will identify changes in tonality and recognise major and minor chords in songs such as *The King's Feelings*. Ensemble work will be a key focus, as children learn to lead and follow musical instructions, keep an eye on the conductor, and explore articulation contrasts when performing.

Creativity will shine through a Kandinsky-inspired improvisation, where pupils vary dynamics, tempo, timbre, and pitch. They will also develop an understanding of musical structure by creating pieces in AB or rondo form and experimenting with motifs through a fun game of Musical Top Trumps.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

As scientists, they will learn about electrical circuits and how electricity powers everyday objects. They will explore components such as wires, bulbs, batteries, and switches, and investigate how to create a complete circuit. Through hands-on activities, pupils will test which materials conduct electricity and understand the importance of safety when working with electrical systems.

In the second half term, they will focus on Living Things and their Habitats and study how living things can be grouped based on their characteristics. They will explore different habitats and learn how animals and plants adapt to their environments. Pupils will also investigate simple classification keys and understand how changes to habitats can affect the organisms that live there.

Computing

As digital creators, they will develop their programming and media skills through two exciting units:

Programming A: Repetition in Micro:bit

They will learn how to use repetition in coding to create efficient programs. They will design and program a Micro:bit project linked to our geography topic on volcanoes, combining creativity with logical thinking.

STEM: Creating Media – Audio Production

They will explore how digital audio is recorded and edited. Using tools such as Soundtrap for Education, they will produce their own audio project, learning to layer tracks, edit recordings, and save files. They will also discuss copyright and ownership of digital content.

These units build problem-solving, creativity, and technical skills while making meaningful cross-curricular links.

Physical Development

This term they will be looking at Gymnastics, Dance and Outdoor Adventurous Activities. In gymnastics they will be focussing on shapes, rolls, balances and jumps. They will learn the correct techniques and how to perform these safely both on the floor and on the gymnastics equipment. They will also be looking to create mini routines to show what they have learnt and their understanding.

In dance they will be looking to follow a set routine using 3 different dance genres. They will then begin to choreograph their own routines in small groups using one or all of the genres they have learnt.

In OAA they will begin to look at basic map reading skills, orienteering and team work. They will start to develop the skills they need to be a good leader and a good team member.

Ourselves in the wider world (RE & PSHE)

In R.E they will be focussing on the following theme during the Spring term: What do Christians believe about salvation? They will also make links with Easter.

In PSHE lessons, they will be focussing on our school values of Respect and Forgiveness. They will also cover the following topics: Why does Money Matter?, Being Safe and Online Safety and Awareness. During Safety Week, they will learn how to stay safe in a variety of situations, both in the real world and online. Under the umbrellas of 'Being Safe' and 'Online Safety and Awareness', they will explore important themes to help them make sensible choices and manage risks.

Topics include:

- ✓ Water Safety: What should you do if someone is in trouble in the water?
- ✓ Rail Safety: How can we stay safe near level crossings and electrified train tracks?
- ✓ Why can drinking alcohol be harmful and what rules keep us safe?
- ✓ Managing Risks and Hazards: To understand that some risks are acceptable and how to make safe choices.
- ✓ Safe Relationships – understanding the importance of boundaries and safe touch.

They will also take part in online safety activities, focussing on how to build positive online relationships, manage information responsibly, building a positive online reputation and how to protect their self-image and identity.

French

In French, the emphasis is on speaking, listening, reading and writing as we capitalise on prior learning 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. Our prior knowledge helps us to master French phonics and sounds, numbers, masculine and feminine nouns and adjectival agreements.

In the learning about adjectives, we will learn how to apply them to create descriptions of different people. We will apply all our learning as we find out about France and what it is like to join in with their celebrations of Épiphanie - La Fête des Rois, Mardi Gras and Easter.

Homework

In addition to reading, weekly spellings, SPaG and maths homework, a half termly topic homework menu will also be set. The homework menu consists of a bank of activities ranging across the whole curriculum. They are encouraged to do at least two tasks on the menu in addition to the online safety and values and passport activity. The purpose of this is to immerse the children within the topic and to give them a varied homework diet to showcase different talents.

It is essential that your child reads as much as possible. This doesn't always have to be your child's reading book; it is just as beneficial for your child to read a wider variety of fiction and non-fiction. Please ensure that you fill in their reading records if you have listened to them read.

Weekly spellings and homework will be sent home every week and spellings will be tested the following week.