

YEAR 4 Curriculum Blog

Autumn 1 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back! A Fantastic Year 4 Adventure Awaits!

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer holiday and feel fully refreshed and ready for our first half term in Year 4. This blog provides an overview of the curriculum your child will be engaging with during the half term. We hope you will find this information useful in keeping you informed and supporting your child's learning journey.

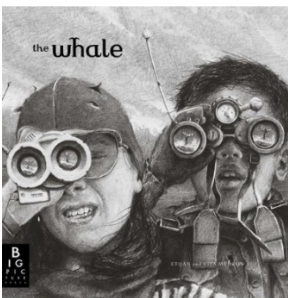
In June, the children will complete the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), which is a mandatory assessment for all Year 4 pupils. The purpose of the MTC is to assess your child's ability to recall multiplication tables with fluency. Achieving this skill will build their confidence in Maths and ensure they are able to access the Maths curriculum as they progress through school. This identification also allows us to provide targeted support to those children who need it. Please encourage your child to complete TT Rockstars regularly each week. Your support with this will have a huge impact on your child's progress in Maths.

Reading plays a fundamental role within your child's education so please encourage them to read at home daily. They may read anything that interests them and can read a book from school, one borrowed from the library or one from home. We will monitor reading at home weekly on Boom Reader so it is essential this is kept up to date. Both parents and children can record their reading on Boom Reader and these will work towards individual and class rewards in school.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please contact the class teacher on Dojo. We would also like to hear about the children's achievements outside of school (football, gymnastics, martial arts etc.) so we can celebrate their success.

Best wishes,
Mrs Storey, Mrs Botha, Mr Pennington, Ms Knowles

English



This half term in English, we will be reading 'The Whale,' a wordless picture book by Ethan and Vita Murrow. The detailed-filled pages play out an epic story with dramatic illustrations about two young intrepid explorers set out to find the legendary Great Spotted Whale. We will write a narrative for the story during our sentence stacking lessons and then create our own adventure about a mysterious mountain creature.

We will then study Gut Garden: A Journey into the Wonderful World of Your Microbiome. In this book, we follow the digestive process from the moment the food enters our mouths to the moment the waste leaves our bodies. Along the way we are introduced to a variety of microbes – good and bad – and gain an insight into the vast ecosystem that exists inside us. We will use this to write an explanation text in our sentence stacking lessons. For our independent writing we will investigate and explain how plastic pollution damages the digestive process of marine animals.

The children will be taught and given the opportunity to practise the statutory spelling and grammar for Year 4 as well as consolidating previous learning in Year 3.

They will practise handwriting regularly and will have the opportunity to earn a pen once their writing is consistently neat.

***Spellings will be sent home and tested weekly**

Mathematics

Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones
Th	H	T	O
4	5	2	8

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This half-term, the children will be focusing on place value. Children will partition numbers up to 1 000 and identify the number of hundreds, tens and ones in a 3-digit number. They will read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10 000 using a number line.

Addition and subtraction will become more complex, involving numbers up to 4 digits. Children will be introduced to different written methods to support their calculations. They will also learn to use inverse operations to check their calculations.

Children will learn to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. In Year 4 we have a strong focus on our times tables as well as mental arithmetic. Parents can support their children by practicing these skills through daily activities, games, and real-life situations. Also encourage your child to mentally add or subtract multiples of 10, 100, or 1000 from a given number. For example, if they know 324, ask them what 10 more, 100 more, and 1000 more would be.

Please log in to TTRS regularly to help the children learn their times tables.

Reading

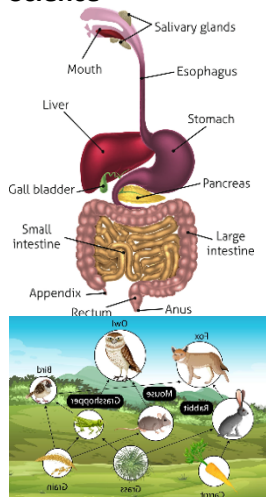


Our class reading text this half-term is Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay by Alexandra Stewart and Joe Todd-Stanton. The story of how the famous mountaineers came to meet and climb Everest is a fascinating one, full of perseverance and courage. As well as Norgay and Hillary's victorious climb, the book tells the story of other attempts on the mountain, the training that Norgay and Hillary had to undertake to be successful, and the dangers they faced.

During Reading lessons, the children will respond to the text using the VIPERS which is an acronym to aid the recall of the 6 reading domains as part of the UK's reading curriculum. **V**ocabulary, **I**nfERENCE, **P**rediction, **E**xplanation, **R**etrieval and **S**ummarise. The children will be encouraged to ask and answer a range of challenging questions and complete reading-based tasks to support their comprehension skill development.

***Please read daily and log all reading on BOOM READER.**

Science



This half term we are working on the 'animals including humans' science theme where we will focus on food chains, teeth and digestion.

The children will explore food chains and develop specific scientific vocabulary to explain each stage and will consider the environmental consequences if a component is removed. Alongside this, we will look at how teeth have developed to successfully manage specific diets and children will take this further acquiring correct vocabulary to describe each tooth type and defining their roles. We will use observations to make scientific generalizations and consider the necessary size of a sample to make our generalizations scientifically valid.

Through the work on human digestion the children will learn about the major parts that make up the digestive system and focus on the purpose of each part. Scientific tests will be planned ensuring terms such as fair testing, control variables, independent variables and dependent variables are understood. Children will also use a model to demonstrate real life phenomenon when we look at how food substances are absorbed and how waste is produced-very messy and memorable!

Computing



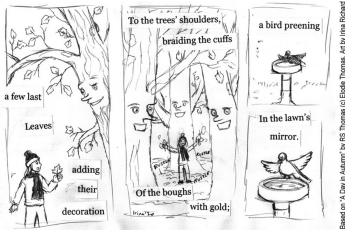
This half-term's unit is focused on the Internet. The children will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet and will be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves in order to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally, they will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.

Geography



The focus in Geography this half term is mountains. The children will learn what a mountain is and how it is formed and become comfortable using technical vocabulary when describing features of mountains. In one lesson, they will draw a diagram showing the process of the formation on mountains. They will use atlases to locate important mountain ranges around the world and in the UK. They will study the human impact of living near a mountain. There will be a lesson on the importance of the Himalaya Mountain range to the people who live in the region, and they will compare it to our own mountain ranges. Finally, they will create a fact file on a mountain range from around the world.

Art



Our Art focus this half term is 'Storytelling through drawing'. We will learn how to create visual narratives inspired by poetry. We will explore the work of illustrators Laura Carlin and Shaun Tan, making visual notes in our sketchbooks. We will experiment with a range of mediums including charcoal, chalk and graphite pencil and use a poem about Night time to create a single drawing which tells the story. Using inspiration from Irina Richards, we will create a comic strip which incorporates a mountain poem. We then hope to showcase our finished work.

Music



In weekly Charanga music lessons, Year 4 will learn about Pop music by ABBA with a focus on Mamma Mia. The children will also become familiar with other well-known songs by ABBA. They will listen and appraise the songs and identify the style indicators of that song (musical characteristics that give the song its style). We will discuss the lyrics and what the song is about. We will learn about musical dimensions featured in the song and where they are used (texture, dynamics, tempo, rhythm and pitch) and identify the main sections of the song (introduction, verse, chorus etc). The children will also learn the names of some of the instruments they hear in the song. We will learn the meanings of the words 'pulse', 'rhythm' and 'pitch' and explore how they work together.

PSHE/RSE



In PSHE, the focus is on feelings and friendship, including those online. The children will recognise the features of positive healthy friendships such as mutual respect, trust and sharing interests. They will learn strategies to build positive friendships and they will know how to seek support with relationships if they feel lonely or excluded. Focusing online, they will learn how to communicate respectfully with friends when using digital devices and understand that knowing someone online is not the same as face-to-face. We will also have a lesson from our No Outsiders initiative, focusing on helping someone accept a difference.

RE



In RE lessons this half term, pupils will reflect on the question 'Why do some people think life is a journey?' This theme encourages children to reflect on their own life journeys and milestones they've achieved. Through engaging discussions, reflective activities, and biblical readings, our students will gain an understanding of how Jesus inspired other people. They will have the opportunity to explore Jesus' teachings and how they inspire Christians today.

French



In our French lessons this half term, pupils will learn about 'Les Saisons' (The seasons). They will learn to name, recognize and remember all four seasons in French. Children will be able to say what their favourite season is and explain why this is their favourite season using simple French phrases. They will start to recognise and use the conjunction 'et' (and) in our spoken and written responses.

PE

PE will take place on Thursdays. This term they will be learning about Health-related fitness, Basketball, Gymnastics and Dance.

We ask all children to wear LTPS PE kit to school on a Thursday. The LTPS PE kit includes a plain white T shirt and plain navy or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms and black trainers (children are not allowed to wear football kits of any description). For safety reasons, please ensure that all jewellery (including earrings) is removed and hair is tied back.

Ideas to support your child's learning at home linked to our areas of learning this term:

- ✓ Read daily and log on Boom Reader.
- ✓ Join and visit the library (Nearest library is on Blackshots Lane).

- ✓ Complete TT Rockstars activities weekly
- ✓ Practise times tables using other games and songs such as:
[Times Tables Games for 7 to 11 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/times-tables-games-for-7-to-11-year-olds)
[Times tables games and songs 1-12 - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/1-12/times-tables-games-and-songs)

- ✓ Complete weekly spelling homework
- ✓ Practise Spelling and grammar using these free online games
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkbf4j/articles/zbm8scw>
<https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/lcwc/index.html>
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

Homework Project – Children are asked to choose one of the projects below to complete.

Please complete and return Homework projects by Friday 13th October. Homework projects will be celebrated and shared in class from Monday 20th October.

- Research and create a poster, PowerPoint or fact file about famous mountains and/or mountain ranges.
- Create a quiz about Mountains.
- Create a 3D mountain model with supporting labels and information.
- Research some of the plants or animals that live in alpine environments. How are they adapted to live in the mountains?
- Write an acrostic poem about a mountain.