

Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2024 – Year 4

Term	Topic
Spring 1 -	Were the Vikings vicious and victorious? - <i>The Viking and Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to time of Edward the Confessor</i>
Spring 2 -	When is water not water? – <i>The Water Cycle and Changes of States of Matter.</i>

Religious Education

We cover three different units focussing on different themes within our religion. These are:

- Local Church – Community (understanding what it is to belong to a community and in particular a Christian community)
- Eucharist – Giving and Receiving (understanding that the Eucharist enables living and growing in communion)
- Lent – Self Discipline (Celebrating new life through self-discipline).

We will also cover '**Solidarity and Peace**' in our Social Justice teaching.

English

Reading

We read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts (Vikings, Viking at School, Beowulf, Kenning poems and Varjak Paw) with the children discussing key features of texts and developing comprehension skills. In school, reading experiences vary between independent reading, shared reading, whole class reading and ERIC. For maximum progress to be made, it is vital that children are also reading with an adult on a daily basis at home. Year 4 children will record their daily reading in their diaries.

Writing

This term we will write the following genres and link them to our reading texts:

- Play scripts
- Biography
- Recount (non-fiction)
- Narrative

Spelling

Children will revise key words from Y4 where necessary and also work on a range of different spelling rules:

- Words ending in ture – culture
- Words beginning with gu – guitar
- Possessive words – singular and plural words and the apostrophe – woman's, men's, child's, girls'
- Homophone words – words that sound the same but are not spelled the same – aloud and allowed
- Statutory words – words from the Year 3 and 4 spelling list
- Words with prefixes – anti and inter
- Words with suffixes - -sion, -tion and -ssion

Grammar & Punctuation

Children will practise their proofreading skills to check for grammatical sense and correct use of punctuation. Year 4 children are expected to be able to use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences. Children should know where to put an apostrophe to show possession and also know when to use an instead of a. They will use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech.

In their written work, children are expected to use a range of conjunctions [for example, when, before, after, while, so, because], adverbs [for example, then, next, soon] and prepositions [for example, before, after, during, in]. By the end of year 4 children are expected to be able to use a wide variety of punctuation, conjunctions and have an increasing vocabulary. It is vital that children read a wide variety of material to support this development of language.

Maths

Where possible maths lessons will link to our topic but this will clearly not always be possible and many concepts need to be taught in isolation. In addition, your children should be practicing their times tables at home in preparation for our weekly test and the national test which takes place in June.

We aim to cover the following topics this term:

- Geometry (identifying triangles, angles, properties of a quadrilateral)
- Place value (reading, writing, comparing and ordering numbers)
- Data handling (collect, present & interpret data)
- Measuring (using and converting between mm /cm/m)
- Division and multiplication (practical and mental methods)

Topic

Were the Vikings vicious and victorious?

From Viking invasions, movement patterns, settlements and kingdoms: place names and warrior life. We will learn about topics such as Viking artefacts, culture and the significance of Edward the Confessor. We will take part in a Viking workshop.

When is water not water?

Children will revise the three states of matter and look closely at how water can exist in each state. They will discover how water changes and why. Children will also look at the water cycle and its importance in our life.

Spanish

Year 4 children are continuing to learn Spanish in a weekly lesson. This term our Spanish topic will be covering:

- Days of the week and months of the year
- Holidays – Valentine's Day and Easter
- Colours
- Numbers 0-30
- Spanish Alphabet

PE, PHSE and Music

Children work on giving and receiving skills in PE this term as well as attend swimming lessons as part of the Government initiative (it is compulsory for children to learn to be safe around the water). In PSHE, Year 4 will learn about what it means to be a good citizen. Finally, in music, children will learn about composition and how to compose music.

Communication with Parents

It is very important to us as a school that we work in partnership with parents. Therefore, we welcome any feedback you can give us about your child and their experience in school; if you have any concerns or worries please see your child's class teacher Mr Cooke 4C and Miss Yadav 4Y. There will be a parent teacher meeting this term for an opportunity to meet formally with your class teacher to discuss your child's progress.