

Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2026 – Year 4

Term	Topic
Spring 1 -	Were the Vikings vicious and victorious? – <i>Who were the Vikings? Why did they raid Britain? Were they only known as vicious warriors?</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:

Topic 1 – Galilee to Jerusalem: Pupils will explore Jesus' question to Peter, "Who do you say I am?", reflecting on Jesus as the servant Messiah and how he proclaims the Kingdom of Heaven, especially to those on the margins of society.

Topic 2 – From the desert to the garden: Pupils will retell key Bible stories including Holy Week, the Prodigal Son, the Judgement of the Nations, and St Peter, making clear links with Christian beliefs about God's mercy, forgiveness and the call to live out the Works of Mercy as part of belonging to the Church.

Topic 3 – From the tomb to the Church: Pupils will retell the story of Peter at the empty tomb and his meeting with the risen Jesus, learning that Peter became the first leader of the Church and that the Pope continues this mission today as the servant of the servants of God, while understanding that the Church is apostolic, united in the Apostles' Creed and honours Mary as Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven.

English

Reading

We read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts (Viking information texts, '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, whole class shared reading and ERIC (Everyone Reading In Class). For maximum progress to be made, it is vital that children are also reading 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:

- Scaling (enlarging and reducing shapes and quantities)
- 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?

Through an exploration of Viking invasions, migration patterns, settlements, and the formation of kingdoms, we will delve into the rich tapestry of Viking history. This journey will uncover fascinating topics, including Viking artefacts, cultural practices, and the truths behind common misconceptions about Viking life. Additionally, we'll participate in an engaging Viking workshop to bring history to life.

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

In P.E., the children will develop and apply their dynamic balance on a line and ball skills through focused skill development sessions, healthy competition, cooperative games, and group Personal Best challenges. In PSHE, Year 4 will learn about living in the wider world, including what it means to be a good citizen and how they can support their community. 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 Mrs Farkas 4F. 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.