

Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 2026 – Year 4

Term	Topic
Summer 1 - First half term	How do we live and survive? <i>Focus on the importance of the rainforests: physical features; people; climate change; the food chain and living things. Focus on our teeth and digestive system. Identifying key parts, their functions and importance for keeping us healthy.</i>
Summer 2 - Second half term	Did Benin belong to Britain? <i>Locate and discover facts about The Kingdom of Benin, the achievements of an early civilisation. Look at the contrasts between Benin and British society. Explain the relationship between the two.</i>

Religious Education

We will cover **two** different units focussing on different themes within our religion. These are:

To the Ends of the Earth- This topic teaches that Peter witnessed Jesus' resurrection, became the first leader of the Church, and that today's Church continues the apostles' mission—guided by the Pope, united in belief and honouring Mary as Mother of the Church.

Dialogue and Encounter- This topic teaches that St Paul was an important figure in the New Testament, that Christian communities work together for the common good and that understanding beliefs like the Five Pillars of Islam helps people live in peace and unity.

English

Reading

We will be focussing on the key features of fiction texts and non-fiction texts (Varjak Paw, The Great Kapok Tree, Idia of the Benin Kingdom and Daily Life in Ancient Benin) while developing comprehension skills. In school, reading experiences will vary between independent reading and whole class reading. For maximum progress to be made, it is vital that children are also reading with an adult on a daily basis at home. The Year 4 children will record their daily reading in their organisers.

Writing

This term we will be looking at reading & writing:

- Poetry
- Persuasive writing
- Narrative
- Non-fiction – Fact Files

Spelling

We will be revising key words from Y4 where necessary. We will also be working on a range of different spelling rules:

- Suffix: -ous, -on, -sion, -ian, -ly, -le, -ic
- Prefixes: un-, dis-, in-, re-, sub-, inter-, super-, anti-, auto-
- 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

Grammar & Punctuation

We will be learning about the importance of proofreading our writing to check for grammatical sense and correct use of punctuation. The children will be expected to be able to use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences. They will also use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech.

In their written work children will be expected to use a range of conjunctions [for example, when, before, after, while, so, because], adverbs [for example, then, next, soon, therefore] and prepositions [for example, before, after, during, in, because of]. 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 in order 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 preparing to take the **national times tables test in June**.

We aim to cover the following topics this term:

- Money
- Measuring- area, time, converting
- Written multiplication and division- using the inverse
- Statistics- bar graphs and pictograms with symbols, flow charts
- Mental calculation strategies- multiplication and division, adding and subtracting
- Addition and subtraction -2 step problems
- Roman numerals
- Fraction and decimal equivalences
- Coordinates and translation
- Scaling

Science

Living things and their habitats

Children will begin to understand the concept of a habitat, how it provides organisms found there with conditions for life and how animals depend on plants or other animals which eat plants for food.

- grouping
- classifications keys (e.g. invertebrates, flowering plants, seed dispersal methods)
- environment changes & associated dangers (e.g. deforestation/nature reserves)

Science- Animals including Humans

- digestive system
- teeth
- food chains

History and Geography

The Kingdom of Benin - Children will look at the Kingdom of Benin and its contrasts with British History. They will have the opportunity to explore its great achievements in pre-European years including technology, architecture, astronomy and town-planning.

- Historical timeline
- Artefacts (including artwork)
- Lifestyle
- Physical landscape features
- Map work

Spanish

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

- Weather
- Class Instructions
- Class Objects
- Nationality
- Family Members
- The Spanish voyages to South America in the 15th century
- Sounds & Spellings

PE, RHE and Music

In P.E., children focus on rounders, dance and athletics, building teamwork, coordination and physical confidence. In music lessons, children will learn about composition and how to compose music. Finally, in RHE, the children will follow the following schedule using Life to the Full.

RHE – Life to the Full

Module / Unit	Unit Title
Module 1, Unit 1	Session 1: Get Up!
Module 1, Unit 2	Session 1: We Don't Have To Be The Same
	Session 2: Respecting Our Bodies
	Session 3: What is Puberty?
	Session 4: Changing Bodies
	Session 5: Boy/Girl Discussion Groups
Module 1, Unit 3	Session 1: What Am I Feeling?
	Session 2: What Am I Looking At?
	Session 3: I Am Thankful!
Module 1, Unit 4	Session 1: Life Cycles
Module 2, Unit 3	Session 5: First Aid Heroes
Module 3, Unit 1	Session 1: A Community of Love
	Session 2: What is the Church?
Module 3, Unit 2	Session 1: How Do I Love Others?

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.