

Year Four
Curriculum Newsletter
Summer 2019

We have outlined below the topics we will be covering this term; our expectations of the children and some suggestions as to how learning can be supported at home.

Dates to note for this term:

Monday 6th May: School closed for Bank Holiday
Thursday 23rd May: School closed for Polling Day
Friday 24th May: Sports Day

Trips this term – there are lots! Any parent helpers would be much appreciated!

Wednesday 1st May: Year 4 to Barnes Wetlands Centre
Friday 14th June: Year 4 trip to Go Ape in Chessington
Wednesday 19th June (PM): **Pine** trip to St Mary's Convent and Nursing Home
Wednesday 26th June (PM): **Birch** trip to St Mary's Convent and Nursing Home
Wednesday 3rd July (PM): **Pine** to perform at St Mary's Convent and Nursing Home
Wednesday 10th July (PM): **Birch** to perform at St Mary's Convent and Nursing Home

Literacy

This term, we are reading *The Secret Garden*, linking closely with Science, Topic and Art. We will be exploring the setting and characters, writing letters and looking at writing techniques to persuade. We will be incorporating drama throughout this term and will write our own play scripts between Mary, Dickon and Colin.

Reading is the key to helping children achieve in Literacy, so we do encourage the children to read at home for 15-20 minutes every day. Please fill in and sign your child's reading records as much as possible. If you want some information on how to help your child read, please ask us. Some suggestions are:

- Discussing the meaning of unfamiliar words (or allow access to a dictionary).
- Read to your children, model good expression and taking note of punctuation.
- Read a range of stories set from other cultures and information books.
- Share how to further edit and improve writing.
- Listen to audio books.

Maths

We have now taught the majority of the Year 4 curriculum, which means that we can spend this term predominately revising and recapping. We will focus on word problems of all the four operations (multiplication, division, addition and subtraction) which will certainly help prepare the children for more complex questions in Year 5. This is an area that would be particularly helpful for you to practise at home over the course of the term. Topics we will teach are co-ordinates and translation, shape, symmetry, interpretation of data, time problems, division and word problems.

Science

Summer 1 – Living things and their habitats.

We will learn about what all living organisms 'do'. We will identify the different types of organisms we are likely to find in particular habitats; we will look at the habitats we have around the school and in the Wild Area. We will start to look at grouping animals and understanding food chains.

Summer 2 - Animals including Humans

We will understand the functions of the human digestive system. We will look at different animals' diets and classify them. We will identify human teeth and their functions and learn the different parts of a tooth. We will explain what actions that can be taken to prevent tooth decay.

Topic – India

Our topic this term is India. We will begin by identifying India’s location within the features of the globe (equator, lines of latitude/longitude tropics etc.) We will complete a case study of the Village Chembakolli learning about daily life, jobs (tea) and culture. We will cook Indian chickpea curry, learn how to wrap saris and even do some Batik art.

PE

Birch have PE on Thursday and Friday this term.

Pine have PE on Wednesday and Thursday this term.

Mr Rick will be looking at athletics in the run up to Sports Day and Quick Cricket after half term.

Art and DT

Art and DT are closely linked to our Science and Topic this term. This term, we will focus on Indian art and patterns and will learn the technique to make a batik image. After half term, we will look at detailed drawings and paintings of insects inspired by the artist Jennifer Angus. We will make accurate 3D insects.

PSHE

We will be visiting an old people’s home in the second half of this term so our PSHE lessons will focus on how we can take care of the elderly and our responsibility as young citizens in the community. After half term, we will look at how our bodies are changing as we grow up.

Homework

We will give weekly times tables and spellings to learn; we do expect these to be practiced in depth. The children should be reading 5 times a week at home and as often as possible with an adult. Please do ensure that you record every time you read in the reading record and that an adult signs and comments in these at least twice a week.

Punctuality and Attendance

It is extremely important that children turn up to school on time. If a child misses even 5 minutes of every maths lesson in a morning they miss the equivalent of a whole maths lesson every fortnight. The class that has the best punctuality and attendance over the week will get rewarded so please try to get your child to school every day and on time.

Help in the classroom

We are always looking for parents to come and listen to children read during the week so, please let us know if you have any spare time to offer, particularly on Thursday afternoons. As we have mentioned, reading plays such a large role in the children’s progress in English, and we would be extremely grateful if you could spare some time to hear the children read.

We consider home and school life a closely bound partnership, so please come and see us if you have any questions or queries.

Mrs Willis and Miss Leatherland
Year Four Class Teachers