Curriculum Newsletter – Year 4
Autumn 2

Value of the term: Confidence

Dear Families,
We are looking forward to the new term. Here is an overview of the learning we will be covering. We hope you will be able to support your child's learning at home by reading with them and talking about the work they are doing in class.

Maths

The main focus for this term, will be multiplication and division looking at the following times tables – 3x, 4x, 6x, 7x, 8x, 9x, 11x and 12x
Once we have mastered the multiplication facts, we will use these to support us in division calculations. We will look for patterns in these times tables and learn skills to help us find out if a large number is a multiple of a certain times table. We will use different representations to help us develop our fluency in these times tables. We will end the term, consolidating our learning from previous units covered so far in Year 4.





English

Reading

In reading, we will be focussing on a wide selection of genres including fiction, non-fiction as well as poetry. We will be developing our fluency when reading as well as building up our phonics knowledge and using our decoding strategies to help us read tricky or unknown words. We will be reading for pleasure and will continue to build a love for reading!

Writing

In our first writing unit of term 2, we will look at writing an effective character description We will look at character descriptions from other books, especially Land of Roar and How to Train your Dragon.
Following this unit of writing, we will then explore some different types of poetry. Firstly, we will look at different types of poetry. We will have a specific focus on personification so that the children can use extended personification in their own poems.
Moreover, we will also be having our daily spelling lessons to revise a range of different spelling patterns.



Science

In Science, we will be finding out about Electricity. We will be making basic electric circuits and understand how they work. We will then add more objects to our circuits and see the impact that has on the circuit. For example, we will look at the role of the switch in a circuit and how when we add one, it changes how our circuit is made.

Finally, we will look at conductors and what that means. In that lesson, we will be exploring what materials conduct electricity and do they all do it in the same way.

PSHE

In PSHE we will be exploring drugs and how some drugs are legal. We will begin by looking at what drugs are. Then, we shall explore how drugs can be legal, illegal or restricted, where we can only get them in certain situations.
Following on from that, we will then have a particular focus on one drug: alcohol. We will look at the effects it has on our bodies and how it is restricted: it is legal but we can't do normal things after having alcohol like driving a vehicle.
Finally, we look at where people can help If they are in a situation where they are addicted to alcohol.



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PE

In our teacher led PE lessons, we will be looking at the sport of netball for the first time in their PE education. We will look at the rules of netball in particular the rules on steps to make sure the children know the correct way to play. As well as this, we shall also look at the importance of passing in netball and the different types of passes we see in netball and the reasons for them. At the end of the term, we will look to use our skills to put them together into a game.

Coach Danny will be teaching hockey to them in the afternoons and putting their skills into matches.



Geography



In Geography this term, our topic is Earthquakes and volcanoes. Our topic question for this is "Is it good to live near a volcano?" We will first look to gain an understanding of the earth and the different structures that make it up. Then, we will look at volcanoes and how they are made up and what causes them to erupt. We will also look at why people live near volcanoes and the benefits behind it. In our last lesson, we will look to answer the aforementioned topic question.

Music

In Music this term we will explore the Pink Panther theme tune and creating sound effects. This will involve listening for elements in music that establish mood and character, exploring sounds on classroom instruments to create a desired effect and discussing an instruments timbre. The children will compose a sequence of sound effects and perform to an audience.

Towards the end of the term the children will listen to and analyse 4 pieces of music all related to/inspired by colour.



Design Technology

In our first DT topic of year 4, we will have a cooking topic. We will look at the idea of adapting a recipe and we will do this through biscuits. In our first lesson of this topic, we will look at tasting a range of different biscuits and trying to evaluate the different qualities of them.

We will then look at different recipes and what needs to be done to make different recipes. After having an understanding of a recipe and what they entail, we will then take a very pragmatic approach by looking at what ingredients can be bought within a certain budget.

Finally, we will look at a recipe and make our own biscuits from a recipes that we have adapted.



Worldviews

In our worldviews, we will explore the question "Are all homes spiritual places?" To do this, we will look at sacred pathways which will let us find out different ways people can explore their spirituality. Then, we will look at different religions and how people from different religions might express their religion within their homes. We will focus at the start on Christianity and look at the differences within Catholic denominations and how they might express their spirituality at home. Finally, we will examine how Hindus show their religion in their homes.

