

Summer Term 2018- Year 4 Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now entered the Summer Term and are excited about all of the learning opportunities taking place this term. We have already begun work around our new topic. 'Many Lands, Many People'. As always, we like to keep you informed about some of the work that the children will be doing and how you can help and support their learning.

Theme

Our topic work this term is 'Many Lands, Many People'. To begin with, the children will look at the USA; where it is situated on a world map, the population and culture. This will lead them to planning their own American road trip. Following their work on modern day America, the children journey back through time to explore the life of Native Americans. They will investigate the daily life of Native American tribes, including the instruments they used to make tribal music, the stories they told that were passed down through generations and finally, they will have a Forest School experience that will involve making tepees and learning other survival techniques.



English

This half term we will be reading Michael Morpurgo's 'The Butterfly Lion' and linking lots of our English work to the book. This will include a [character description](#) of one of the main characters. They will then move on to creating their own [short story](#) about another character at a boarding school. We will spend the latter of the half term revising [instructions](#) linked to our theme.

In the second half of the summer term, we will create an [information guide book](#) based on our visit linked to our theme. This will be followed by our unit on [poetry, written by Michael Rosen](#) and we will be using this as inspiration to compose and perform our own poems.

Mathematics

In our maths lessons this term, the children will:



- * Focus on ensuring they have a secure understanding of decimals and place value and use money in context.
- * Use standard units of measurement of length, capacity and mass in a range of contexts.
- * Understand the concept of area and perimeter. They will learn how to apply their knowledge of finding area to figures in different orientations.
- * Learn how to identify angles, shapes, and lines of symmetry and how to classify shapes.
- * Describe position and movements and plot co-ordinates.

To further support your child at home, we would really appreciate it if you could reinforce the work on their mental calculations around money, and support them in ensuring that they can accurately tell the time on an analogue clock.

The expectations from the National Curriculum are that Year 4 children know all of their times tables, up to 12x12 by the end of the school year. This will be a key element of our lessons and any opportunities to reinforce this learning at home would be gratefully appreciated.

Reading

It is really important that every child reads at home as regularly as possible. We would encourage you to ask lots of questions about what they have read and what they think will happen in the rest of the book. Higher order thinking skills would include inference (why a character has acted a certain way), morals and underlying messages, as well as linking to real life experiences or similar books of that genre. Please aim to hear your child at least three times a week and record in their reading diary accordingly.

Science - "Electricity" and "Bubbles"!

This term, children will be identifying electrical appliances and understanding the different power sources that they use. They will also be learning how to keep safe around electricity and use appliances safely, as well as familiarising themselves with materials which conduct electricity. They will then be creating electrical circuits with the outcome of designing an alarm system!

In Summer 2, we will be enjoying blowing and creating different kinds of bubbles! We will be learning how to plan and carry out a fair test, investigating the effects of changing bubble mixtures and trying out different shaped bubbles.



ICT

Our learning will focus on animation this half term and next half term will focus on publishing. The children will be taught the basic principles and techniques of simple animation. The publishing unit introduces children to two different software choices for a creative way of presenting digital photos. Using existing images or photos taken in advance, children spend three lessons learning skills in Microsoft Publisher and a further three lessons using Windows Movie Maker.

Religious Education - RE

In RE, children will be investigating what we can learn from religions about deciding what is right and wrong. They will begin by investigating the Golden Rule and how it is seen in Christianity, Humanism and Judaism. The unit moves on to look at teachings about temptation in Christianity and Judaism, helping pupils to think about what religious stories show about temptation. Finally pupils investigate the life of a religious figure, looking at how teachings from religion may affect the actions of a believer.



Physical Education - PE

We will have two lessons of PE a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Children will need to have a white polo shirt with dark shorts and suitable footwear. This can be kept on your child's peg in a labelled drawstring bag. Please label all of your child's items of kit. For outdoors long sleeves and joggers would be useful.

Personal, Social and Health Education - PSHE

The unit of work the children will cover in PSHE is 'Relationships'. During these sessions the children will have the opportunity to explore their own feelings and emotions and also those of others through a range of activities. We will explore "Love and Loss" and what these feelings mean and how they can affect us. We will be discussing "Memories", as well as "Animal Rights", also including discussions about "Special Pets".

In Summer 2, the children will be following the Jigsaw programme of study around "Changing Me". The children will learn about how their personal characteristics are a mixture of both their parents' DNA, how the female body changes as they grow and how the female body prepares for pregnancy. We will be discussing how we can prepare for changes in our life and thinking ahead. A further letter with additional information about what is covered in these sessions will be sent out shortly.

Homework

A homework pack is available upon request. The pack will contain tasks linked to work carried out in the classroom. Answer sheets will be made available. Please let us know if you would like a pack. Weekly spellings will be given out. Alongside this, they will also have their POWER Projects linked to our theme.

Many thanks for your continued support. We are looking forward to the fun and exciting term ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Year 4 Staff