



Our Curriculum

Year 4

The Year 4 curriculum includes many opportunities for the children to research and discover. We will be encouraging them to develop their independence as learners and thinkers. All our curriculum topics have been reviewed and updated in line with the new National Curriculum.

Our main themes are:

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
The Romans	Anglo-Saxons	Vikings

English

We have a daily English lesson and a guided reading time. The children have opportunities to study a wide range of genres during English lessons. These include fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays.

Writing and Handwriting

Children learn to write for a variety of purposes and we want the children to become enthusiastic and confident writers. We support them in formulating and refining their ideas. There is an ongoing focus on spelling, grammar and punctuation based on the statutory requirements in the new National Curriculum. Frequently, children are asked to learn spellings at home. Children complete handwriting practice once a week as an early morning task. Where necessary the children will take part in a more intensive handwriting scheme.

Reading

There are many contexts in which the children develop reading skills. We undertake shared reading in English lessons, guided reading with small groups daily and individual reading according to the needs of the children. We encourage decoding using the children's phonic skills, but also aim for them to develop a sound understanding of what they are reading. We want to foster a love of language and reading by sharing books for pleasure and reading to and with the children. We provide a range of graded reading books from many different reading schemes for children to use in school and at home. Please read with your child regularly at home and encourage them to discuss the story and ways in which they 'work out' unknown words.

Spoken Language

We support children in developing good listening skills. The children will all complete a 'Just a Minute' talk to help develop their confidence in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening skills are also developed through philosophy lessons.

Maths

The children in Y4 are mixed and split into two ability groups for maths. The work is tailored to meet the individual current learning needs of each child, so that they will

meet the learning objectives at the right stage for their mathematical development. The children's learning is continuously assessed and their progress monitored each half term. If necessary, children may be moved between groups. Throughout the year, children learn about number, shape and space, measures (including money and time), statistics (data handling) and problem solving. We use a variety of recording methods alongside the use of equipment and encourage children to explain to each other how they work out an answer. We emphasize the role maths has in everyday life and aim to apply mathematical skills across the curriculum.
The children learn their times tables and division facts up to the 12 times table.

Science

The children will have opportunities to carry out and plan experiments, they will also learn how to make reasoned predictions and plan fair tests. The topics covered during the year are States of Matter, Electricity, Living Things and their Habitats, Animals including Humans and Sound.

Computing/Information Technology

In these lessons, children will be taught how to use the Scratch programme in a variety of different ways. The children will collect weather data which will be recorded using Excel spreadsheets and present a weather forecast! We will use GarageBand to record a piece of backing music and make short animated slideshows. The programmes Inkscape and Sketch-Up will also be used. The children will learn about e-safety, text/cyber bullying. A range of digital sources will be used for research in the classroom and to record ideas and work. Computing and ICT is an integral part of the school curriculum and children have regular access to a bank of iPads and laptops.

Art and D&T

The children will design and make mosaics, whilst learning about the Romans. We will study and reproduce art work in the style of Henri Matisse and cook and taste some European dishes. The children will sketch and print well-known European buildings. We will design and make a Christmas card using a basic electrical (battery) system.

Music

Singing assembly takes place weekly. Year 4 children will be taught to play the recorder and to read basic musical notation. A variety of styles of music will be listened to throughout the year, including the works of some of the major European composers.

History and Geography

The children will be studying the Invaders and Settlers and their impact on Britain. Romans will be studied in the Autumn term, Anglo-Saxons during the Spring term, incorporating a visit to Sutton Hoo. The Vikings will be taught in the Summer term. These will be linked with mapping skills, focussing on Europe, specifically the countries these people travelled from. In addition to the mapping skills, the children will learn

about climate zones.

PE

The children will be taking part in many different games such as tag rugby, tennis and cricket. They will develop their accuracy and control in performing skills and will increase their ability to become an effective team member. The children will also be making up dances and increasing their ability to move rhythmically. They will be working on sequences and control of their bodies in gymnastics. During the Autumn term, swimming will take place weekly.

Personal and Social Education (including Philosophy)

During the year we will be encouraging the children to behave respectfully towards other people and to form appropriate and caring relationships with their friends. We will also discuss the influences, pressures and harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco. They will be taught about basic finance handling. Every class has curriculum time for Philosophy. The Community of Inquiry is a specific methodology that aims to improve children's thinking and investigative skills. It encourages them to think more deeply about the ideas met in all other areas of the curriculum and reflect on their own thinking and learning.

Religious Education

During the Autumn term we will be learning about inspirational people with a focus on Christianity and Hinduism. The Spring term will focus on inspirational Islamic people and Sikh symbols and religious expressions. In the Summer term will learn about family and the community particularly focussing on Christianity and Sikhism.

French

We teach the children how to listen carefully in order to discriminate sounds and identify meaning in French. They learn to respond to simple classroom commands, short statements and questions. As they become more confident and extend their vocabulary, children learn to ask questions and respond, so that they engage in short conversations. Children also learn more about the geography and culture of France. In Key stage 2 we use practical activities and the excellent Rigolo programme.

