

Supporting Your Child in Year 4

**Spring Term 2024**

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. We are now back to school for our Spring Term and I can see already, that your children are ready for the term ahead, as they have come back with a very settled, positive and hard-working attitude. Perfect for this important year! I have set out below what we will be studying this term.

**Manners, Rewards and School Values**

It is really important that we promote good manners within the school, so please remind your child that as a school, we will be looking out for wonderful manners and rewarding these with class dojos and values counters – this terms’ values are ‘ENJOY – Creativity and Enthusiasm.’

**Everyone’s Welcome and British Values**

This term we will be using the book ‘Dogs Don’t Do Ballet’ to help the children understand the protected characteristic ‘Gender’ and also the book ‘Amazing,’ which enables the children to discuss what makes a good friend. We will continue to develop the children’s knowledge of our British Values in our PSHE lessons to reinforce our understanding of how we incorporate them into our daily lives.

**Reading**

Please can you encourage your child to be reading every day and logging it using the GoRead App. Thank you. <https://go-read.co.uk/> https://empoweredparents.co/memory-games-children/

**Memory games** – A good memory is vital to extending a child’s capabilities. Memory games support all children, as they help to build memory recall and lesson cognitive overload. They particularly help to support children with SEND.

<https://empoweredparents.co/memory-games-children/>

**Extend your child’s learning**

Why not challenge your child at home with some of the activities provided by STEM resources.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/primary/resources>

**English**

The English focus for this term is ‘writing to persuade,’ which means we will be studying grammar such as alliteration, rhetorical questions, fact / opinion and specific vocabulary, to persuade the reading audience. Vocabulary choices will be challenging and specific to the tasks and we will gradually build up the skills, over the term, to be able to write a persuasive text on the environment and write a letter to Mrs. Conlon about a school matter the children feel is important to address (theoretically!)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn> - Grammar

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/reading/> - Reading comprehension

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr> - This is an excellent interactive site, to help your child learn to touch type – a very valuable skill nowadays!

**Numeracy**

Numeracy lessons will also follow the White Rose Scheme. Our areas to focus on this term are; multiplication and division, area, fractions and decimals, but all of the four operations will also be visited. It would also be helpful to your child if you can ask them to ‘explain’ how they have solved any problems they are given. This will reinforce their own understanding and verbalise their thinking.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z826n39>

**History**

Our History Topic for this term is ‘The Romans.’ The children will be using their knowledge organisers to develop an understanding of the Romans, for example; how they lived, fought and worked. Homework Knowledge Organisers will be sent home to help support the children in their home learning.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwmpfg8>

**Science**

We shall be studying ‘States of Matter.’ The unit will teach your child about the

differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the

weight of a gas. Furthermore, they will have chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate. They will explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation. Finally, they will learn about the stages of the water cycle, creating mini water worlds and an interactive water wheel to represent the different stages. They will be developing their skills of scientific enquiry and use them to design their own scientific investigations.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkgg87h>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=solids%20and%20liquids>

****<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/gamesactivities.html>

**ART**

****The first half term focuses on ‘Painting and mixed media – Light and dark.’ Children will be developing colour mixing skills, using shades and tints to show form and create three dimensions when painting and learn about composition, then plan their own still life to paint, applying chosen techniques. Have a look at this video clip - Paul Cezanne – Still Life Painting for Kids – Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6660oKCaS4>

**DT**

In the second half of the term, the children will be studying ‘Fastenings.’ They will analyse and evaluate a range of existing fastenings, then devise a list of design criteria to design, generate templates and make a fabric book sleeve. They will understand how to plan what materials are needed to produce a product and be able to adapt if things are not as intended.

****Try making a windmill using a fastener - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOVmRUPNRHo>

**Music**

term they will be creating songs to promote the awareness of bullying, gaining further knowledge on musical notation and using technical vocabulary. In the second half of the term, we will be focusing our music sessions around Bill Withers song ‘Lean on Me.’ I am looking forward to introducing the children to some classics!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zwxhfg8>

**RE**

We will be researching into the questions; How do festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim? They will also answer the question; How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people? We will be using discussion and reflection as well as learning knew information to try to answer them.

<https://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/religion/muslimfestivals.htm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/fvSXqNwR6djdMN744c47fq/hanukkah>

**PSHE**

The children will be using our Kapow Scheme of work to enable them to for example; understand what human rights are and why they are important., how reusing items benefits the environment, the range of groups that exist in the wider community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KQGz-toMnk>

****<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PZmVCabmsc>

**P.E.**

Your child will have a PE lesson every day for 30 minutes. However, two of those lessons will be a PE based English and maths session. **Please make sure PE kits are worn to school on a Wednesday (indoor - Dance) and Thursday (indoor basketball) morning. Friday afternoon will be hockey outside, so children will need warm outdoor kit. If there are any changes to PE slots, you will receive a class dojo.** The children will need a Glenmere kit or a plain kit with no labels please.

<https://www.ussportscamps.com/tips/basketball/11-basketball-drills-at-home> - Why not have a go at these basketball skills you can do at home.

**Computing**

Children will be focusing on ‘Programming and Repetition in Shapes.’ Specifically repetition and loops within programming. They will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language. The second half term is about Data Logging, where the children will consider how and why data is collected over time, the senses that humans use to experience the environment and how computers can use special input devices called sensors to monitor the environment.

<https://turtleacademy.com/playground>

**Supporting Children with Needs and the More Able**

Children with SEND and those who need extra support have access to scaffolds, structures and adult support to enable them to access the curriculum at their level, but are also encouraged to achieve their best possible outcomes by the challenges they’re set. Memory games are great for supporting the cognition of children and improves their working memory.

<https://empoweredparents.co/memory-games-children/>

Children who are working at a higher academic level are also given opportunities to deepen their understanding across the curriculum by the tasks they are given and the questions they’re asked in lessons. Children may enjoy the activities provided by STEM.

<https://www.stem.org.uk/primary/resources>

**BOOKLIST**

Children in year KS2 are encouraged to read a range of books, from poetry e.g. Roald Dahl’s Revolting Rhymes, to The Hobbit! We are currently reading the book ‘The Wild Robot’ by Peter Brown. If your child would like to read the book by themselves at home, they can do so by clicking the link below. It is an online copy of the book. <https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/The_Wild_Robot/J8AzDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover>

**Summary -** It's the story of a robot named Roz and her struggle to survive on a remote, wild island. As it turns out, Roz doesn't just survive, she adapts, and learns to communicate with the wildlife, and then she develops animal friends and even a family. Roz makes the island her home.

**Homework**

Homework will continue to come out to you via Doodle Learning. <https://doodlelearning.com/>

Please can your child complete a times tables revision session (just one targeted table depending on which they feel they need to practice) and then a tables test every day. This will only take 10 – 15 minutes, but is essential for them to know their tables and quickly recall them and will make a significant impact in their times tables test in June. Please use <https://www.timestables.co.uk>

Thank you.

Mrs. T Dorrington.