

Curriculum Overview for Parents and Carers

Year 4

Spring Term

This term we will be learning the following things. Here are some useful hints and tips for helping at home!

	Overview of Learning	Ideas for Learning at Home
English 	<p>This term, our first pieces of writing will be based on the novel, Ice Palace by Robert Swindells. The children will write their own story episode and short diary recounts following our writing sequence. The children will then write a non-chronological report inspired by Unfolding Journeys Rocky Mountain Explorer by Lonely Planet Kids which also links nicely to our Geography topic. The children will then write a retell of Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit and an eyewitness account. Our final piece of writing will be an explanation text based on A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu and You by Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley.</p> <p>In our class reading, our first novel will be The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate Dicamillo. In Spring 2, our class novel will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. Each week, we will also explore a wide range of other text types that are linked to other areas of the curriculum.</p>	<p>Your child could have their own diary at home which they can write in daily. This will improve their key skills in writing like spelling, punctuation and handwriting.</p> <p>Each week, your child is given spellings to practice. Spellings can be tricky and so it's useful to practice these at home as much as possible to improve your child's accuracy.</p> <p>Please make sure your child is reading at least three times each week & bringing in their completed reading record every day so that they qualify for their weekly reading worm & entry into our reading raffle!</p>
Maths 	<p>3, 6 & 9 Multiplication tables: 3, 6 & 9 multiplication tables <u>in</u> rules and patterns, real life contexts, division, repeated addition, derived facts, inverse relationships, commutativity, distribution and problem solving.</p> <p>7 x multiplication tables: 7 x multiplication tables rules and patterns, real life contexts, division, repeated addition, derived facts, inverse relationships, commutativity, distribution and problem solving.</p> <p>Multiplicative Relationships: Multiplying a 1-digit number by 10, Multiplying 2-digit number by 10, divide a 2-digit multiple of 10 by 10, divide a 3-digit multiple of 10 by 10, multiply a 1-digit number by 100, multiply a 2-digit number by 100, divide a 3-digit multiple of 100 by 100, divide a 4-digit multiple of 100 by 100, using known facts of multiplication, using known facts of division, partition mental strategy, double and half mental strategy, strategy choice, problem solving.</p>	<p>It is important that all of the children know all of the multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 by the end of May; Times Tables Rockstars & Hit the Button is a fun way to practise these.</p> <p>When you are out shopping, can your child use their mental maths and rounding skills to estimate how much your shopping bill will be?</p> <p>Encourage your child to read the time on both analogue and digital clocks.</p>
Science 	<p>This term, the children will learn that all matter is either a solid, a liquid or a gas. They will find out how we define these different states of matter and be able to describe the differences in the way that solids, liquids gases behave. They will use this knowledge to help them to compare and group materials together according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. The children will also investigate and observe some materials change state when they are heated and they will learn about the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.</p>	<p>Can your child group materials at home as solids, liquids or gases? Maybe you could ask them why there is condensation on your windows on a morning or why the washing is drying on the line?</p> <p>This is a great website for simple science experiments to do together at home: http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments</p>

<p>Geography</p> 	<p>This half-term, our topic is why are mountains magnificent? We will be exploring how mountains are formed and learning about some of the largest and most famous mountain ranges within the UK and in the world. After the half term, our topic will be about how mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes are connected. The children will be learning about tectonic plates and how they move on the surface of the earth to create mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes.</p>	<p>Your child could use the internet to research famous mountains and volcanoes located across the world or research a particular European country. There are lots of YouTube videos on building your own volcano and making it erupt.</p>
<p>Art & Design</p> 	<p>After the half-term break, the children will be designing, creating and evaluating a still life painting. We will be exploring artists in this field such as Caravaggio, Tove Jansson and Andy Warhol before experimenting with different painting techniques, shades, tints and complimentary colours. The children will revisit their learning on perspective and creating the illusion of the foreground, midground and background. They will also explore the cross-section of an object. The children will then create their own pieces and evaluate these.</p>	<p>If you have paints at home, you could practice some of these different techniques at home. Can they show you some or explain them to you? Encourage your child to practice their artistic skills at home by sketching and exploring perspective.</p>
<p>Design & Technology</p> 	<p>This half-term, the children will be designing, creating and evaluating their own moving miniature playgrounds including gears and an electrical circuit with a light bulb. Children will investigate gears and explore how they work before carefully considering the purpose, audience, functionality and appeal when designing their product. The children will then start to make their product using a range of different materials. Finally, the children will evaluate their product with reference to its purpose, audience, functionality and appeal.</p>	<p>Does your child know how a gear works? Do you have a bicycle at home with gears? Do you have a tin opener? You could explain to your child how a gear works to transfer motion and energy or can they explain to you?</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>Our first topic this term is: What is the best way for a Hindu to lead a good life? The children will consider how their actions might have consequences in order to think deeply about the choices that Hindus make. They will also learn about Hindu beliefs and prayer before reflecting on the choices that Hindus make to lead a good life. The children will then consider how they can take actions to lead a good life too. After the half term, children will learn about what Humanists believe.</p>	<p>You could research Hindu and Humanist beliefs and discuss these with your child. How are they similar or different to religions they already know about? Is there anything they want to find out more about?</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>Gymnastics: Performing a 6-element sequence, using the STEP principle to create and perform a partner sequence, taking weight on their hands showing control, to develop a sequence using compositional ideas, cooperating as a group to refine a short sequence, comparing and judging sequences. Badminton: Using an underarm forehand shot, hitting an overhead clear, hitting a backhand shot with control and accuracy, performing 'trick shots', working collaboratively to score shots, using forehand and backhand shots in a singles game.</p>	<p>Please ensure that your child remembers to bring their water bottle. We will be outside in all weathers (within reason) so a coat, warm tracksuit, waterproof, hat and gloves are also needed. Piercings must be removed or covered up before coming into school.</p>
<p>PSHE</p> 	<p>In PSHE, we will be look at what diversity is, discussing that people may be different but that everyone has the right to be treated equally. We will look at examples of how some people may need tools to help succeed when coming from different places in life. Additionally, we will look at celebrations in different cultures and that it is important to celebrate diversity. After half term, our topic is called 'How can we understand our feelings?' We will discuss how feelings constantly change and how they can be affected. Our feelings can be represented through body language, facial expressions and voices. Finally, we will discuss that we can talk to trusted adults if we're find it hard to manage feelings.</p>	<p>Have open conversations at home about diversity and encourage children to engage with media (books/television etc) with diverse authors, casts, and characters.</p>

<p>Music</p> 	<p>In music, Year 4 will continue to develop their singing skills in singing assembly. In class, we will keep a steady pulse in: 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures and using different tempos on a tuned instrument. Finally, we will perform pieces with at least 2 rhythms happening together.</p>	<p>Can you try the time signatures with clapping or instruments to have at home? Could they come up with their own song or sing a song they know with the same time signature.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>Using Purple Mash, Year 4 will complete their animation topic and explore how search functions can be used effectively. Afterwards, we will move onto our 'Logo' topic where we will learn the structure of the coding language Logo. The children will input simple instructions in Logo, create letter shapes and use repeat functions.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to be safe when online – can they tell you what the rules are? Use apps that support their learning. There are lots of amazing free apps and websites!</p> <p>Use BBC Dancemat to practise typing skills!</p>
<p>French</p> 	<p>The children will begin the term naming animals in Spanish and learning how the language identifies nouns as masculine and feminine. They will then move on to composing simple oral sentences I know how to (action verb) before moving on to joining simple sentences with conjunctions y (and) & pero (but).</p>	<p>Encourage your child to practise their Spanish at home by teaching you! There are lots of French games and activities on the BBC website www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</p>
<p>Trips, Experiences and Enrichment</p> 	<p>World Book Day - Thursday 5th March 2026 (English) Darlington College - Friday 13th March 2026 (PSHE) Enterprise – TBC (Enrichment) Humanist Visitor – Spring 2 (RE) Trip to Roseberry Topping – Provisional date Thursday 2nd April (Enrichment)</p>	

Within school we have 6 values: **Kindness, Respect, Resilience, Fairness, Teamwork** and **Ambition**.
These are interwoven through our curriculum and everyday practice.