



Curriculum Overview for Parents and Carers

Year 4

Summer 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
<p>English</p> 	<p>Our first class novel of the summer term will be 'The Wild Robot' by Peter Brown followed by 'Varjak Paw' by S. F. Said. In Whole class reading lessons, we will develop key reading skills through a wide variety of text types that link to other areas of the curriculum.</p> <p>Our first three pieces of writing will be based on a previous class novel, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl which the children absolutely loved! Our first piece of writing is a persuasive flyer advertising a new chocolate bar. Our second piece will be a character episode followed by a rhyming poem, inspired by the Oompa Loompas! Our final two pieces of writing will be based on 'The Adventures of Robin Hood' by Adrian Mitchell and will be a legend and a local newspaper report.</p> <p>We will close the year by joining the rest of the school in our Whole School Write.</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>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Our first topic for the summer term will be fractions where the children will learn about mixed numbers, proper and improper fractions. They will also learn to compare, order, add and subtract these.</p> <p>Our next topic will be symmetry in 2D shapes where children will create a symmetrical pattern, compose symmetrical shapes from two congruent shapes, fold shapes for symmetry, use a mirror to find symmetry and reflect polygons over a line of symmetry. They will also learn about coordinates, and how to translate a shape on a grid.</p> <p>Finally, we will finish with our 'time' topic. The children will learn about am and pm, convert 12-hour into 24-hour and 24-hour into 12-hour. They will use this knowledge to tell the time effectively on both digital and analogue clocks, reason and solve problems.</p>	<p>It is important that all the children know their multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 by the end of May. Both Times Tables Rockstars & Hit the Button is a fun way to practise these. There are also games on Purple Mash.</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



In the first half term, the children will be exploring sound. In this unit, the children will learn to identify how sounds are made, associating them with something vibrating. They will find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it. They will recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases. They will recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear. They will find patterns between the pitch of a sound and the features of the object that produced it.

In our final half term, Year 4 will cover electricity. They will identify common appliances that run on electricity and construct simple series circuits, identifying and naming basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. The children will identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether the circuit is complete. They will recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

Can you talk about different sounds and how they are made?
Can they tell you about volume and pitch?

Do children know the electrical dangers in the home? Can they identify household conductors and insulators?

This is a great website for simple science experiments to do together at home:

<http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments>

History



Our history topic this term will be Ancient Greece.

Our first big question for the summer term will be: How did life differ in the Greek city-states? In this topic, the children will gain an understanding of the city-states of Ancient Greece, and what daily life was like across the different areas.

Our second big question for the summer term will be: How did the Ancient Greeks help to shape the Western world?

We will learn about the significance of Ancient Greek politics, culture and philosophers, investigating the legacy these have left on the modern world.

There are some great books and videos available about the Ancient Greeks that may enhance and deepen your child's understanding of this time period, particularly Horrible Histories.

Art & Design



This term in art our topic is 'Sculpture: The Human Form', where will gain inspiration from significant individuals such as Anthony Gormley, Barbara Hepworth and Alberto Giacometti. The children will use clay to form 3D shapes by rolling, moulding, cutting, coiling, twisting and pressing. They will learn how to join pieces together with slip and decorate their sculptures with imprinting techniques. We will ensure that when making a human form that we will think about the proportion of the components before joining them together.






Use clay or other modelling materials at home to create your own sculptures.



Design & Technology



This term, we will be practicing cooking skills such as following a recipe, using scales to weigh, using the bridge and claw method to chop, peeling, coring and baking to create a ratatouille dish with couscous. We will also be developing our cooking skills further by cooking apple crumble. To do this, the children will make their own breadcrumbs by rubbing fat into flour.

Can you practice cooking with your child at home? Perhaps they could practice the bridge and claw method whilst helping you prepare dinner. Talk to them about using cooking equipment safely and the importance of good food hygiene.

<p>RE</p> 	<p>Once we have finished our topic about how Muslims lead a good life, we will explore the question: What do Humanists believe? This topic will explore what a Humanist is, what their beliefs are, and how this affects the behaviours they display and the choices they make. We will reflect on what this means in our own lives, and how we can show care towards the world and other people.</p>	<p>You could research 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>The children will take part in swimming, hockey and Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA).</p> <p>Year 4 will be taking part in swimming lessons every Wednesday 13.50 – 15.40 at Darlington Dolphin Centre. Children will need to bring a towel and swimming costume. If your child has long hair, please ensure this is tied up. No jewellery or watches should be worn. Children will be dismissed from the gate as normal upon return to school at 3.40pm.</p> <p>In hockey, the children will learn to perform basic hockey skills such as dribbling and push passes. They will develop tactics and apply them in competitive situations. They will develop their speed and endurance during gameplay.</p> <p>Finally, OAA will be focusing on team or group activities, using teamwork with identified roles. They will plan and refine strategies to solve problems, using maps, compasses and symbols.</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>We will plan, carry out and reflect on our enterprise fundraiser for our unit 'What makes us enterprising?'. We will know what enterprise is and ways to raise money. We will think about using individuals' personal strengths and how we can work as a team to help us achieve common goals.</p> <p>In the next unit, the children will answer the question 'How can we keep safe in our local area?'. The children will know what hazards are in our local areas (roads, rivers, trains) and how we can avoid dangers which can arise. Finally, we will discuss what to do when there is an emergency.</p>	<p>Please reiterate to your child about being safe in your local environment especially with the lighter evenings and warmer days arriving.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>In music, Year 4 will continue to develop their singing skills in singing assembly. In class, we will be composing music using five note melodies.</p>	<p>Listen to and appreciate different genres of music. What is the theme of the music? What instruments can you hear? How does it make you feel?</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>Our next topic will be effective searching. In this topic, the children will learn searching skills and be able to assess whether the results are true and reliable. This will also involve an introduction to AI, how it can be used effectively, and how to be a good digital citizen when using it.</p> <p>In our final topic, the children will make music. They will use their understanding of pulse, rhythm, tempo and pitch from their music lessons to create a melodic phrase.</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>In Spanish, the unit will be 'I know how to...'. The children will learn vocabulary and sentence structures which enable them to talk about things they can and cannot do, with a focus on the high frequency verbs.</p> <p>They will then learn vocabulary about fruits and vegetables, including how to ask for them.</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>Enterprise – Enrichment The Great North Museum Hancock – History Hardwick Park – Enrichment</p>	

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