

Curriculum Overview for Parents and Carers

Year 4

Autumn Term

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

English



Overview of Learning

This year we will begin our English learning by completing a block of lessons focussing on grammar and punctuation using The Place Value of Grammar and Punctuation on Grammarsaurus. This will ensure that the children have a secure and solid foundation to apply to their writing.

Our first class novel will be a funny and engaging story, Cliffhanger by Jaqueline Wilson. This story may also be very relatable for the children prior to our Robinwood residential. The children will write a recount in the form of a postcard as the main character, Tim. Then, after our very exciting residential, the children will create a persuasive leaflet aimed at the Year 3 children to encourage them to go. They will be able to draw on their own experiences to inspire their writing!

After the half term, our class novel will be Small by Hannah Moffatt. Our first piece of writing will be a 'how to' guide to explain to a Small how not to be squished into a sandwich. Our second piece of writing based on this book will focus on writing a story episode from another character's perspective. Our final piece of writing for the term will be based on Aquila: The Romans and Radical Romans which will link to our History topic. The children will create a non-chronological report inspired by magazines for children of their age.

We will explore a range of texts in our whole class reading lessons that also link to other curriculum subjects such as History, Science and Art.

Our other class novels this term will be Queen of Darkness by Tony Bradman and Ice Palace by Robert Swindells.

Ideas for Learning at Home

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.

You could ask your child about their class novel, what has happened so far? Who are the main characters? What do they think will happen next? This type of discussion around what the children have read will support their comprehension retrieval skills. They could also write a short summary of the story - we'd love to share it and read it in class!

Maths



Place value: Represent and know the value of thousands, hundreds, tens and ones; partition thousands, hundreds, tens and ones; number lines to 1000; 1, 10, 100, 1000 more or less than a number; compare two numbers using $<$ $>$ $=$; order sets of numbers; round to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.

Position and direction: Describe positions using coordinates; plot coordinate; translate on a grid; describe a translation.

Addition and subtraction: Add and subtract numbers with up to four digits using concrete resources, pictorial representations and formal written methods; solve addition and subtraction two-step problems in context deciding which operation to use; estimate and use inverse operation to check answers.

Statistics: interpret bar charts; answer comparison questions; answer sum (+) questions; interpret line charts.

Measurement and length: Equivalent lengths (km and m); perimeter on a grid; perimeter of a rectangle; perimeter of rectilinear shapes (with and without missing values); perimeter of polygons.

Multiplication and division: Multiply/divide by 10 and 100; related multiplication and division facts; Multiply and divide with 2-digit and 3-digit by a 1-digit number using concrete resources, pictorial representations and formal written methods.

Problem Solving: This term, the children will investigate logic problems, questions with more than one possibility, problems linked with real-life world, trials and improvements, working systematically and open-ended problems.

It is important that all of the children know all of the multiplication and division facts up to 12×12 by the end of May; Times Tables Rockstars & Hit the Button is a fun way to practise these.

When you are out shopping, can your child use their mental maths and rounding skills to estimate how much your shopping bill will be?

Encourage your child to read the time on both analogue and digital clocks.

Science



Living Things and their Habitats

The children will learn that all living things can be grouped in a variety of ways based on their different characteristics. They will use and create their own branching keys and ask appropriate questions to classify different animals.

Teeth and Eating

We will learn about the different types of teeth humans have and what we use them for, as well as the importance of looking after them! Then they will delve further into the functions of the digestive system, writing about the journey a piece of food takes as it makes its way through the body. They will find out about some of the things that can go wrong with the digestive system and the importance of a healthy diet.

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

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

Geography 	Where Do We Live? In Year 4 we will be specifically focusing on County Durham. We will begin our learning by finding out what a county is and the different counties of England. The children will then learn about how land use has changed over time in County Durham due to factors such as the Industrial Revolution and deindustrialisation. We will then plan to investigate issues in County Durham and use a map to plan a route to carry out fieldwork. We will then take a trip to an area in County Durham to carry out the fieldwork enquiry along the planned route (details of this are TBC). Finally, we will consider future solutions to an issue in County Durham.	You may like to explore different maps with your child, particularly of County Durham. You could discuss different towns, cities and villages within the county and main rivers. To enhance your child's exposure to maps, you could practice using a map to plan a route and then walk that route.
History 	What was the Roman Empire and how did it become so huge? How did the Romans impact Britain? What does the evidence reveal about Roman York? In our first lessons, we will learn about what is known about Early Rome by becoming historians and investigating artefacts. We will also learn about who was in charge of the Roman Empire and understand how powerful the Roman army was. Subsequent lessons will then focus on the chronology of Roman Britain, the impact of the Roman invasion, life in Roman York, the final years of the Roman Empire, the most important Roman achievements and the legacy of Roman Britain.	Why not go to the library to borrow some books about the Romans or do some online research together?
Art & Design 	Cityscapes The children will explore artists linked to our topic such as Sir Christopher Wren, Stephen Wiltshire and L.S. Lowry. They will learn about perspective and experiment with drawing cubes and cuboids using the grid method. To portray form and realism, the children will experiment with hatching, cross-hatching and directional shading. They will design and create their own cityscape using perspective. Finally, they will evaluate their artwork.	Can your child show you the grid method to create cubes and cuboids? Can they draw a cityscape they have seen or design their own?
Design & Technology 	Sewing: Cushions In D&T this term, we will be developing our sewing skills. Our final product will be a small cushion with an appliquéd design. In our series of lessons, we will be investigating what appliqué is and the different sewing techniques we will need to make our cushion. The sewing techniques we will be focusing on are running stitch, backstitch, overcast stitch (whipstitch). We will then plan, design and make our product before finally evaluating our designs and final product.	If you have a sewing kit at home you could explore this with your child. Discuss with them the different things we usually keep in a sewing kit and their purpose. You could practice the different types of stitches we will be using at home (running stitch, backstitch, overcast stitch/whipstitch).

RE 	What do some deities tell Hindus about God? Firstly, we will consider how people can show different aspects of their personalities through their appearance or how they act and that the core of being ourselves is not changed by outside appearances. We will then learn about Brahman and deities such as Ganesha and Lakshmi. Finally, we will apply our learning by considering how we can show more of our positive aspects. Just in time for Christmas, in our second topic, we will consider what the most significant aspect of the nativity story is for Christians today.	Why not go to the library to borrow some books about Hinduism and deities or do some online research together?
PE 	In rounders, the children will learn how to hit the ball in different directions, run between posts to avoid getting stumped out. They will learn how to intercept the ball using one hand and bowl underarm. Finally, they will know the role of the backstop and use the scoring system. In football, children will learn how to run to the ball to receive it, mark a player, perform a standing tackle, pass and receive a ball from longer distances and pass accurately whilst moving. After half term, the children will attend swimming lessons at the Dolphin Centre to work towards the end of KS2 expectations. This includes: swimming competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 meters; using front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke; perform a safe self-rescue in different water-based situations. In Autumn 2 the children will explore tag rugby, learning to make accurate passes to team members, picking the ball up from the floor and running with it, keeping possession of the ball, evading being tagged and changing running speed to create gaps to run into. They will also develop their dance skills by learning group dances from different world traditions.	Please ensure that your child remembers to bring their water bottle every Wednesday. We will be outside in all weathers (within reason) so warm tracksuit, waterproof, hat and gloves are also needed as we head into winter. Piercings must be removed or covered up before coming into school. Get some extra swimming practise to practise swimming longer distances using a range of strokes.
PSHE 	How can we have positive relationships? We will be exploring how to maintain positive relationships, whether these are with friends or other people we care about. We will know about professional relationships which encompasses the people we work with, including teachers. We look at our responsibilities to be kind and respectful towards others' beliefs and explore how what we say and do can make people feel better or worse. The children will understand what consent means, how to set their boundaries and address uncomfortable situations. Lastly, we will learn that we can resolve differences positively and respectfully. How do we grow and change? In this unit, the children will be taught about some of the changes that happen during puberty, pitched at an age-appropriate level. This unit will also involve guidance about when it is and is not appropriate to talk about their private parts.	You may want to have discussions and conversations with your child at home about different relationships. You could ask them to think about: Why are they different relationships? How are they different? Why are relationships important? How can we resolve conflicts or deal with unhealthy relationships? How can we show respect to everyone?

Music 	In music, Year 4 will be developing their singing skills by learning songs using contrasting melodies. They will explore songs with this feature from a range of genres, and discuss how it changes the mood of the song. They will finalise this unit by learning and performing a pop song. Throughout the term, they will participate in singing assemblies, which focus on different musical skills.	Why not have a sing along to all of your child's favourite songs at home whilst making dinner or in the car? Make a point of listening to different genres of music as a family and discuss them.
Computing 	Using Purple Mash, Year 4 will learn how to enhance, plan and create animated narratives in their animation unit. In their online safety unit, the children will learn about how we can maintain safe and healthy relationships online. The second unit of online safety will explore how information online is not always reliable, and how to navigate this. Before Christmas, the children will be introduced to Logo programming, focusing on developing their understanding of basic commands and programming concepts. Children will learn to create shapes and letters using instructions that contain advanced features such as procedures.	Encourage your child to be safe when online – discuss ground rules about being safe online whilst at home.
Spanish 	La fonética 1* Phonetics 1 In this unit, we will learn the pronunciation of the 27 letters in the Spanish alphabet. We will learn how ch, j, ñ, ll and rr are pronounced. Aprendo Español* I am learning Spanish The children will begin with learning the foundations of the Spanish language, to aid in their learning of other topics after Christmas. It will include basic words and phrases such as greetings, saying their name, colours, and numbers.	Encourage your child to practise their Spanish at home by teaching you! There are lots of Spanish games and activities on the BBC website. www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
Trips, Experiences and Enrichment 	A fieldwork enquiry in an area of County Durham (Geography) (TBC) Robinwood Residential Whole School Pantomime Visit to Roman fort (History)	

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