

Year 4
Spring Term
2024



Miss Edwards, Miss Smith, Miss
Townsend, Miss Senkaraman and
Miss Roberts

English

The children will continue to improve their English skills through daily handwriting and writing tasks. Our main body of English learning links with the humanities topic and the key texts are 'Empire's End' by Leila Rasheed and 'Roman Myths' by Geraldine McCaughrean. Throughout the term, the children will also be introduced to a range of complementary texts - focusing on writing diaries and letters. As the term develops, the children will be writing their own information texts revolving around aspects of Roman civilisation.

Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation

Throughout the year, the children will spend time consolidating their understanding of different spelling rules and conventions, and integrate these into their writing. In addition to this, they will be given, on a weekly basis, a set of words to learn at home associated with a common spelling pattern. These words will be tested on the following week. Words included in spelling tests come from the National Curriculum statutory list of words for years 3&4, which can be found in each child's homework book. Also, the children will spend time developing their punctuation and grammar skills, achieved through a combination of separate grammar and punctuation lessons and activities integrated into the main learning. There will be a focus on identifying word classes and tenses in writing.

Reading

The daily reading session begins with 'Word of the Day' - a daily starter during which children encounter a new word. They learn and discuss its meaning, word class and spelling as well as using it in oral/written sentences. A different text is modelled and explored each week, and used for children to practise reading aloud to improve fluency as well as developing the different skills needed to read for meaning with confidence. Through directed tasks linked to the text, the children focus on applying skills related to the six domains (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising).

Maths

The children will continue to use Maths - No Problem! Learning includes graphs, fractions and time during the first half term. In the second half term, the focus is decimals, money, mass, volume and length. There is also daily arithmetic work to embed fluency and times table practise. Times Tables Rock Stars can be used to help with this at school and at home.

Humanities

The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain

The children will gain an understanding of what the terms 'empire', 'settlement', 'migration', 'invasion' and 'conquest' mean. This will be taught through learning about where and when the Romans invaded Britain and the impact of Roman life on Britain today.

Science

States of Matter

The children will learn to categorise and describe materials based on their states and investigate changing states of matter. Additionally, they will examine the relationships between evaporation, condensation and precipitation within the water cycle.

Electricity

The children will learn, through practical investigation, how to identify appliances that run using electricity. They will also construct simple electrical circuits, identifying and naming their basic parts. There will be a number of opportunities for them to explore the different properties of circuits, recognising common conductors and insulators.

Art & Design

The unit links with our humanities topic: The Romans. The children will be developing their understanding of collage, creating mosaics inspired by Roman architecture. The use of pattern, symmetry and intricacy of design will be focused on, with the children not losing sight of the purpose and impact of their final outcome.

DT

After half term, the children will be designing and building a torch using their knowledge of electrical switches and circuits. This project encourages strong cross curricular links between science and DT.

Religious Education

Islam

The children will be exploring the significance of the Hajj pilgrimage, asking questions about why Muslims go on such a great journey. They will also be introduced to the stories and places associated with Hajj.

French

The children will continue to be taught French every week and this term, will be learning about animals. They will learn ten key animals and be able to use the vocabulary acquired to ask and answer questions, and write simple sentences.

Music

Music lessons continue to take place in the music room once a week. The children will be looking at structure and patterns in music from the Roman period. They will also create graphic scores: representations of music using pictures as opposed to traditional musical notation.

Computing

The children will learn how to create 3D products (Roman arrowheads based on their humanities unit) using computer aided design and creating a product for a purpose that can be printed out on the school 3D printer. They will also use I Can Animate software that will enable them to create animated films quickly and easily. These will be based on our rich curriculum.

PE

Class teachers will conduct indoor P.E. sessions focusing on fitness. This includes activities such as circuit training. Outdoor P.E. sessions are led by Mr Flynn and this half term is centred on striking and fielding games such as football and handball.

Indoor PE: Wednesday

Outdoor PE: Thursday

Additional Information:

PE kits

It is important to note that: all children must wear shorts ($\frac{3}{4}$ length) or jogging bottoms; tops must be plain blue or white T-shirts (covering the shoulders due to health and safety requirements). On the first day of term, the children should bring their PE kit in a drawstring bag.

Homework

In line with the school's homework policy, children will receive spellings each week. Please make sure that you read with your child as often as possible.

We have asked the children to ensure that they are reading for a minimum of 20 minutes each day. This can take the form of books, newspapers, magazines or information from the internet. However, we would like the children to read aloud with an adult at home at least once a week.

Uniform

In line with expectations, the children should wear regulation blue, yellow or white tops and appropriate shorts, trousers or skirts. Please also remember that the only jewellery allowed is small stud earrings. Children with long hair need to come with their hair tied back.

Water

It is Sherington's policy that water is drunk throughout the day to aid concentration and learning. Your child should bring a plastic bottle to school on a daily basis.

Please note that lessons start promptly at 8:55am. Children need to arrive in school at 8:50 to allow time to complete early morning work and organise resources for the first session.

For a printed version of this newsletter, please contact the school office.

