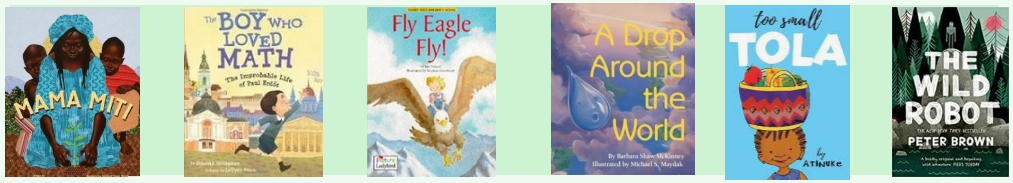
Year 4 Spring Term—Curriculum Newsletter

Our World of Water

Class Teacher: Mr Shankar

As readers: The children will be reading a wide range of non-fictional and fictional texts across a variety of genres to encourage them to fall in love with reading as in independent pursuit and to get the most out of what they read. During reading lessons the children will continue to expand their vocabularies, make inferences and predictions and experience a variety of authors' voices and points of view.



As writers: Moving on from fiction and letter writing last term, we will be writing a biography of Wangari Maathai, the Nobel prize winning activist and conservationist who helped Kenya recover from increasing droughts caused by deforestation, together with an information text on water usage around the world. In the second half of term, we will consolidate our letter writing skills by writing an informal letter and add to our writing skills by writing a poem using kennings to imitate Anglo-Saxon poetry forms.

As mathematicians, in anticipation of the national multiplication tables assessment, we will be placing a strong emphasis on learning what multiplication is and to become fluent in our times tables. We will use a variety of tools to achieve this including TT Rockstars—the online multiplication game. From there, we will move to learning about division, the companion operator to multiplication. Following this we will learn how to find the perimeter and area of shapes and then focus on our 3, 6 and 9 times tables. We will look for patterns in times tables and the relationships between different times tables. We are excited to be helping to pioneer a new times tables programme run by NCETM, the National Center for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

As scientists, we will be learning about states of matter: solids, liquids, gasses and plasma and how temperature and pressure affect molecular structures. The children are introduced to the important ideas of atoms comprising all matter in the universe and how the water cycle works. We will then move onto learning about sound. What it is, how it is transmitted, and how acoustics work.

As geographers, our focus will be on 'Our World of Water' - how it supports life on the planet, where it comes from, why it is such a precious natural resource and how water scarcity and climate change are pressing whole planet issues. We will continue to learn about the locations of countries, cities, natural features and cultures.

As historians, we will move from the Roman period of British history to the Anglo-Saxon period. The emphasis will be on human migration, but along the way we will learn about how artefacts are used, how the English language developed, and how many towns and cities got their names. We end at 1066—the Norman Conquest.

As artists, we will learn about Pablo Picasso and the cubist movement as part of the wider movement of abstract art. We will learn how to use colour to impart mood to an artwork and how to construct our own abstract and cubic art.

As designers, we will be learning about pneumatics and building a simple pneumatic device with a specific purpose in mind.

As musicians, we will continue to benefit from the Richmond Wider Opportunities scheme who will be providing us with a specialist singing teacher for our weekly lessons.

As theologians, we shall be exploring why some people think of life as a journey. We shall explore significant experiences in Christianity and Judaism that mark this. After half term, we shall explore why religious festivals are important with a focus on Eid al-Fitr in Islam and Easter in Christianity.

As athletes, your children will take part in weekly swimming lessons at Pools in the Park.

As members of our community, we will be exploring what can we do to conserve water and to help those around the world who suffer from water scarcity, how data is used and shared and making decisions about money.

As computer scientists, we shall start the first of two programming units in Year 4. We will look at repetition and loops within programming. Pupils will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language.

Enrichment

We will be working with an expert from Thames Water who will give the children a lecture on water treatment and saving.

School Value of the Term

RESPONSIBILITY

UN Sustainable Goals