

Year 4 Spring Term



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 an independent pursuit and to get the most out of what they read. During reading lessons, the children will continue to expand their vocabulary, make inferences and predictions and experience a variety of authors' voices and points of view.



As writers: Moving on from fiction and the use of formal language last term, we will be learning to write informally by using contractions. Inspired by our class book 'Mama Miti', about the Nobel prize winning activist and conservationist Wangari Maathai who helped Kenya recover from increasing droughts caused by deforestation, we will write our own biographies about people we find inspiring. We will also write a non-chronological report on the oceans. In the second half of term, we will add to our writing skills by writing a poem using kennings to imitate Anglo-Saxon poetry forms and a letter designed to introduce the children to the vocabulary and techniques of persuasive writing.

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. We will look for patterns in times tables and the relationships between different times tables. Other topics that will be covered in maths this term are coordinates and continuing with our understanding of fractions. We are excited to be helping to pioneer a new times tables programme run by NCETM, the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

As scientists, we will be learning about states of matter: solids, liquids, gases and plasma and how temperature and pressure affect atomic and 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 / Viking period. The emphasis will be on human migration and its effects 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 paint our own abstract and cubic art.

As designers, we will be learning about pneumatics and building a simple pneumatic device (a pop-up card) 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. This will culminate in the children composing and performing their own song.

As theologians (R.E.), 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 (P.E.), your children will take part in weekly swimming lessons at Pools in the Park. This is a mandatory part of the children's learning.

As members of our community (P.S.H.E.), 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. We will also be looking more widely at how we can be responsible individuals at home, at school and in society.

As computer scientists (Computing), 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 going to Holly Lodge in Richmond Park for a workshop on food chains and food webs and to look at pond life.

School Values

Responsibility: We take responsibility for our behaviour. We are kind and caring to ourselves and others.