

Year 4 Spring Curriculum Newsletter

Science: Animals including humans

During this unit, the children will learn about the importance of the digestive system. They will learn the names and functions of each part of the system and be able to identify the different types of teeth in humans and their purpose. The children will plan and conduct an investigation to answer the question: which drink causes the most tooth decay? They will extend their knowledge of food chains by constructing and interpreting a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

Art: Chromatic

Children will learn how artists use sketchbooks in this painting and collage unit. They will learn what mixed media is and use collage and watercolour while being inspired by buildings and the work of other artists. They will learn about the work of an architect, some Victorian photocollagists, and a contemporary collagist. They will develop their ability to evaluate their own work. They will become more confident while creating their own more divergent outcomes.

DT: Cooking and Nutrition: Adapting a recipe

During this unit, the children will initially taste test a variety of biscuits and evaluate them. The children will then make simple biscuits and taste test them. After this, in groups, children will choose a target audience and design a biscuit tailored towards them including creating packaging. The children will create their tailored biscuits and receive feedback from their target audience to help them evaluate their product.

Music

During this term the children will take part in a unit about Rivers where they will learn about pitch, tempo and dynamics. They will also learn about Haiku poems and how they link to music.

Guided Reading

To begin with, we will be reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl as this will support the children with their first pieces of writing in English. We will then also complete some more of Grammarsaurus' Comprehension Crushers to help children improve their comprehension skills using a wide range of text types.

English

In English, we will begin with a setting description based on the inside of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. After this, we will then write a diary entry from the view of Charlie Bucket on his day at Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. In the second half of the spring term, the children will write an explanation text all about our digestive system, using their science knowledge to support them. Finally, they will look at poetry and have a go at writing their own.

Home Learning

Reading: It is so important for building vocabulary and developing understanding that the children read. Even if they can decode fluently, please can parents listen to their children for 15 minutes at least 3 times per week. If children do this weekly, they have a greater chance of winning a book in the Golden Bookshelf competition.

Times Tables: Please encourage your child to practise their times tables and use TT Rockstars as often as possible to develop their fluency.

Spellings: Spellings will be sent home weekly (usually on a Wednesday). The children will be tested on them on the following Wednesday. These spellings will link with their spelling and English lessons.

What's Coming Up?

Friday 30th January - School nurse visit (Hygiene and period talk)

Wednesday 4th February- Friday 6th February - Year 4 Residential to Ilam Hall

Thursday 5th February - 4H final swimming session

Thursday 12th February - 4M first swimming session

Thursday 5th March - Fire service visit (Fire safety talk)

Maths

To begin with, the children will continue their learning about multiplication and division. We ask that you continue to encourage your children to use TTRS at home to practice their times tables. They will then learn about coordinates on a grid before moving onto fractions and shape.

Geography: My region and Campania, Italy

Children will learn about the world and how it is represented on maps as well as countries and capital cities of Europe and the UK. Children will specifically focus on Italy and will learn the key human and physical features of the country before focusing on the region of Campania. Children will learn about plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes. Children will then use their knowledge to compare their own region in England with Campania and establish similarities and differences between the two.

Geography: Weather and Climate (fieldwork)

Children will learn about the difference between weather and climate and how different countries have different climate zones. The children will have the opportunity to use a variety of weather instruments to measure the weather in our area. Children will be encouraged to predict their findings before carrying out the investigation.

RE

In spring one, the children will learn about 'The Sound of Silence'. This unit looks at the Quakers and Buddhism and why silence is important to them. In spring two, the unit is called 'Remembering'. The children will learn about what happened in the lead up to Jesus' crucifixion.

P.E

In PE, the children in 4H will continue swimming. Their last session will be on the 5th February. After this, their PE will be OAA. The children in 4M will continue with gymnastics and dance. Their first swimming session will be the 12th February and they will swim until we break up in July.

P.S.H.E.

During this term the children will learn about physical health and mental wellbeing. They will have a visit from the school nurse who will deliver a hygiene talk with the children and also a period talk with the girls. We will also look at keeping safe and have a visit from the fire service.

