

Welcome back! Here is the Year 3/4 curriculum overview for the Autumn Term.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
<p data-bbox="217 219 443 241">Mother Nature's Plate</p>  <p data-bbox="140 510 528 622">The children will study the Mayan civilisation and learn how these ancient people discovered chocolate from the fruits of the rainforest.</p>	<p data-bbox="722 219 858 241">Into The Blue</p>  <p data-bbox="571 510 1010 566">We will dive into world's oceans and learn of marine life, habitats and the water cycle.</p>	<p data-bbox="1169 219 1361 241">The Ancient World</p>  <p data-bbox="1058 544 1473 622">This topic is focussed on the achievements of the earliest civilizations. It entails an in-depth study of Ancient Egypt.</p>

Curriculum

We teach a 'topic based curriculum' and most subjects are taught in a cross curricular approach. This creates a more meaningful learning experience for the children as they can apply the knowledge and skills learnt in one subject to others.

English

Each class is focussing on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. Children will produce several types of writing including: character descriptions, newspapers, play scripts, instructions, persuasion, explanations and non-chronological reports.

Each child is allocated a school reading book. This will be at an appropriate level for them. Any reading at home or school should be recorded in their personal organisers. We encourage the children to acquire Book Worm Badges achieved by reading at home with your child each evening for ten minutes and signing the organiser. We are also still taking part in DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read) after lunch for 15 minutes. Everyone reads a book of their choice for pleasure, therefore practising the important reading skills needed in everyday life. There are daily Guided Reading sessions where children are taught specific reading skills such as inference and summarising.

Spellings

Spellings will continue to be given out on Mondays and the spelling test will be on Fridays. This year, spellings will be taught daily and will focus on a specific sound/pattern/rule. Once every half term a whole school spelling event will take place involving learning the spellings from the National Curriculum's statutory lists, available in the organiser on page 81.

Maths.

We follow the 'mastery' approach of teaching maths. Mastery is based on the idea of children not moving on until they are secure in their understanding of a particular concept. Our Maths lessons this term include the following topics: place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions and decimals and measures. The whole school is continuing to focus on times tables and the Year 4 children will be taking part in the Multiplication Tables Check in June 2020 (more details to follow). Your help and support in working at home with the children to develop their times tables knowledge would be much appreciated.

Science

The children will learn to identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants. They will work scientifically to explore the requirements of plants for life and growth and investigate the way in which water is transported within plants. Moving on, the children will explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal. Finally, the children will learn how vital plants are in every food chain from every habitat on Earth!

Geography/History

We begin by focussing on human geography including: land use, trade links and the distribution of natural food resources. Children will be taught the geographical similarities and differences between the UK and Brazil in South America learning about the journey of the cocoa bean from its origins to being used in the production of chocolate in the UK. As a contrast to the British use of chocolate, we will learn about the ancient Mayan civilization who were actually the first people to discover chocolate in AD 900.

PE

During the Autumn Term the children will learn skills in Tag-Rugby and Dance with Mr Cannon and Mrs Sills. Please ensure that the children have the correct PE kit in school all week.

RE

The children are learning about where, how and why people worship? They will investigate places of worship in Nottinghamshire. First, the children will learn about the Muslim festival of Ramadan and how people are able to demonstrate perseverance, self-motivation and self-control. Then the children will relate the self-control aspect to their current topic and will design and make a healthy fruit kebab.

Music

Initially the children will develop an understanding of the history of Mayan music and will learn about typical Mayan musical instruments. They will then compose music suitable for an ancient Mayan ritual and perform the finished piece to the class.

PSHE (Personal and Social Health Education)

New Beginnings. The children will start off learning to recognise their own feelings and the feelings of others. They will learn ways to make others feel welcome and to help them feel like valued members of the community. Moving on, the children will develop calming down strategies and will learn peaceful problem solving techniques.

British Values

Throughout our topic the children will learn the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The importance of laws and mutual respect will be promoted through PSHE when establishing class rules. Children will learn the importance of individual liberty when working on E-Safety and through learning about the choices we make regarding our diets. Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs will be taught during RE lessons.

Computing

We are starting with e-Safety. The children will learn that there is a right and wrong way to communicate and this may be different depending on whom you are communicating with. Children will then learn how personal information is as valuable online as offline and that it should not be shared without parent, carer or teacher's permission. Moving on, children will begin to access websites through bookmarking, etc., where they have to find the correct page.

Art/Design and Technology

We start off developing shading techniques when creating observational drawings of plants. We will then move on to study the techniques of great historical artists such as Cezanne and Rousseau. The children will learn how these great artists used medium to create their distinctive styles. The children will apply their knowledge of these styles to create their own images of a rainforest.

MFL (Modern Foreign Language)

As an exciting new addition to the curriculum this year, all year 3/4 classes will begin to learn French, taught by a specialist teacher.

Whole School Homework.

Homework continues to be given out on a Tuesday. Maths is given out every Tuesday and the children have one week to complete it. Maths homework is always linked to the topic studied that week. Whole school homework this term is going to be linked to the current topic. Children will be able to pick their homework task from a range of exciting options!

Educational Visits and other Curricular events

On the 21st November, we're heading over to Cadbury World in Birmingham. Finally, as a celebration of our topic, all four classes are holding a 'Topic Extravaganza' in the last week of term where we will showcase aspects of our whole term's learning. We hope to see you there!

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you require any further information. Thank you for your continued support!

Kind regards,

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