




Dear Parents/Carers,

A big hello from the Year 4 team again! We have lots of exciting things happening this term that we'd like to share with you. It's going to be another amazing term and we can't wait to get started!

<b>Autumn</b> The World in Our Hands	<b>Spring</b> Desert Discoveries	<b>Summer</b> Carlton Explorers
 <p>An exploration into rainforests, focusing on the key aspects of physical geography, including climate biomes and biomes.</p>	 <p>Discovering the achievements of ancient civilisations and comparing different regions in Africa.</p>	 <p>Explores the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods.</p>

### Curriculum

At The Carlton Junior Academy, we teach a broad and ambitious curriculum. We aim to provide a meaningful learning experience for all children, which develops knowledge and skills in each subject area.

### English

This term, the book we are focusing on is 'The White Giraffe', a mystic read within which an eleven year old girl, Martine, wakes up to find her house on fire. When her parents die in the fire, she is forced to go and stay in Africa with a grandma she didn't even know she had. Inspired by this book, the children will produce a range of writing styles, such as explanation texts, newspapers, non-chronological reports, biographies and balanced discussions. Any reading at home or school should be recorded in children's organisers. We ask that you share a book with your child each evening for at least ten minutes and sign the organisers. This term we are continuing with the 'Bookworm Challenge' awards. Can you support your child in achieving a Silver Reading Badge by the end of Spring Term? We always welcome donations of unwanted books.

### Spellings

Every Monday, children will have a 'blind spelling test'. These are marked and spellings will be given out for children to glue into their organisers. Another spelling test will be completed on Friday to show improvements. During the week, children can use 'Spelling Shed' to further develop their understanding of spelling rules. Every term, a whole school 'Spelling Bee' will take place involving learning the spellings from the National Curriculum's statutory lists. Last term, a Year 4 child from Holly Class won the school's Spelling Bee, so let's see if we can have another Year 4 winner this term!

### Maths

We continue to follow the 'mastery' approach - meaning children acquire a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding - our first focus is on 'Fractions'. Children will use concrete resources to explore and work with fractions. Following on from this, the next focus will be on 'Angles'. Children will learn the names of angles and will begin to compare and describe angles. Next, children will explore perimeter and learn how to measure total lengths of shapes, in 'Perimeter of Figures'. Finally, we will focus on 'Lines and Shapes'. This topic allows children to explore different types of lines in 2D and 3D shapes. Please encourage your child to use the fantastic website 'Times Table Rock Stars' to improve their rapid recall of times tables, ready for their Multiplication Tables Check in June 2022.

### Science

Our topic is 'Animals including Humans', focusing on 'Digestion'. By the end of this exciting topic, children will be able to describe the simple functions of the digestive system and identify different types of teeth. This will include practical investigations, so that children can really dive deep into their learning. Following on from this, children will then identify producers, predators and prey, finally creating their own food chain.

### History & Geography

Our History topic this term is 'Desert Discoveries', where children will find out what life was like for the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. Children will begin by following the footsteps of archaeologists Carnarvon and Carter and how they discovered the ancient tomb of Tutankhamun. Following this, children will study hieroglyphs and how they help us to learn about this period of time. The children will explore how Egyptians built pyramids and, finally, will make a decision about which queen they believe to be the most influential. In Geography, children will explore the continent of Africa; finding out about some of the countries on this massive continent, as well as using maps to locate different places. Children will then identify the largest urban areas in Africa and the deserts/plains of Egypt and compare this to Kenya.

### P.E. (Physical Education)

Not only have the children improved their balance and agility skills from Autumn Term, but also their resilience skills. For Spring Term, we will be focusing on three different units of work. Following on from skills learnt in Autumn, the first unit is 'Gymnastics'. Children will perform skills more accurately and consistently, and devise a gymnastics sequence to perform. The second unit is 'Multi-Skills', where children will travel and change direction easily and with speed. The third unit is 'Netball', where children will develop skills including, but not limited to, ball control, passing, catching, and throwing.

### Religious Education

In RE, we will be focusing on the religions 'Hinduism and Judaism'. Throughout the topic of 'Symbolism and Religious Expression', children will consider why people choose to go on pilgrimages. Along with this, children will then participate in group and class discussions to suggest how and why Hindus and Jewish people go on journeys to sacred places. To finish off this topic, children will plan their own journey to a place that is special to them.

### Music

From last term, children have developed their confidence, by performing in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and musical instruments. This term, children will be able to find the pulse to a steady beat and talk about the music focus, which is 'Stop!' by Joanna Mangona.

### Foreign Languages

Madame Vasco (our French specialist teacher) will continue to teach Year 4 once a week. The children will discuss festivals and celebration in different cultures, and compare aspects of everyday life, both at home and abroad.

### PSHRE (Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education)

We will cover two different units this term, using our whole school JIGSAW approach: 'Dreams and Goals', and 'Healthy Me'. During these engaging topics, children are able to voice their opinions respectfully and appropriately. For the first unit of learning, children will share their own hopes and dreams and will know how to work as a group to achieve a goal. Then, during the 'Healthy Me' unit, children will learn facts about smoking and how this impacts on human health, and then look at and discuss ways to resist and cope with the pressures life can throw at us.

### Computing

We will use spreadsheets to collect and enter data, by adding simple formulas to a cell and extract information from a spreadsheet to answer questions. In the second half term, we will program using 'Scratch'. We will break down a problem into smaller steps and plan what needs to be written for each stage. Our computer programs will contain a repeat loop, a forever loop and a simple variable. For Online Safety, we will look at our online reputation and explain ways in which we can develop a positive online reputation. Children will develop strategies to protect their 'digital personality' and online reputation and explore the impact technology has on health, well-being and lifestyle.

### Art & Design Technology

We will focus on using water colours to develop techniques including the use of materials, to create an accurate picture of an animal. From this, children will then consider how texture can effect a piece of work. This term, children will complete 'The Great Bread Bake Off'! From this topic, children will select and use kitchen ingredients and equipment to follow a bread recipe. After this, children will need to evaluate their ideas and products by self-assessing.

### British Values

Throughout our topics, 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. Tolerance and respect of those with different faiths and beliefs will be taught during RE lessons. Children will learn the importance of responsibility and relationships during our PSHRE lessons.

### Seeds to Success

In school, we encourage children to take steps towards aiming higher and making a difference to their own lives and the lives of others by developing awareness and skills in each of our school's values: Excellence, Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, and Determination. At The Carlton Junior Academy, we aspire to be the best that we can be. We learn that trying new challenges is exciting and helps us to step outside our comfort zone through our 'Seeds to Success'. Each half term, we choose a 'seed' to focus on as a whole school. In the Spring term, we will be focusing on the following: 'Think of a job you would like to do when you're older and research it thoroughly' and 'Join an after-school club'.

### 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 linked to the topic studied that week in class. If you have any questions or queries this term, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Miss Simmons & Miss Kerrison