

Year 4 Autumn Term Curriculum Guide 2021

English

We cover the key objectives improve spelling through regular exercises and short tests, revision of spelling rules learnt in Year 3 and improve and develop punctuation and use basic grammar correctly. We develop writing skills that focus particularly on description and information texts, study a range of texts to engage the boys' interests and ask them to learn a poem 'off by heart' to promote spoken language skills. Reading every day is recorded in the Reading Record, spelling tests take place every week and homework includes comprehension, creative writing and some online activities.

Maths

During the autumn term the boys will be developing their number work as well as some shape and space work. The number work will include: **place value** - reading and writing large numbers, counting in 10's, 100's and 1000's, rounding numbers, introducing negative numbers; **addition and subtraction** – introduce strategies to increase recall of these two operations mentally. Consolidate the formal process of addition and subtraction, introduce the inverse operation, and to solve word problems; **multiplication and division** – introducing strategies to increase recall of tables (including partitioning), multiply and divide by 10, 1000 and 1000, use the formal method to multiply and divide. Spatially, the boys will cover: **2D shapes** – understand properties of triangles and polygons, draw circles and semi-circles; **co-ordinates** – to read the axes on a graph, to understand translation (the movement on a shape); **symmetry** – to understand congruent shapes, to draw lines of symmetry on shapes, to draw reflections of shapes.

The boys will also be using MyMaths and ttRockstars to support their classwork and their homework.

Science

Before half term, boys learn how to work safely in the lab, how to use the Bunsen burner, and how to conduct scientific experiments. Key skills include selecting and using various types of measuring equipment, writing up experiments, recording and interpreting results, producing properly labelled diagrams, and plotting graphs. Investigations include determining the boiling point of water, observing the effects of heating various substances, and measuring the periods of pendulums. After half term, boys study electricity. They learn where electricity can be experienced in the natural world, what static electricity is, conduct 'charging up' experiments, experience the Van der Graaf generator, learn to build simple circuits and understand the basic principles, understand the difference between mains and battery electricity, learn about dangers of electricity and how to stay safe, make their own battery, conduct experiments to test which materials conduct electricity, and make a Morse code telegraph and/or a buzzer game.

French

These key objectives will be covered alongside others in the units of work in each term. The topic areas and grammar for the Autumn Term are as follows:

- Greetings, name, age, birthday, where you live.
- Alphabet, numbers to 31, days, months, dates, brothers, sisters, pets.
- Introduction to gender of nouns and verbs in the present tense (first person singular).
- Classroom instructions, equipment, school subjects, opinions, telling the time, school time table.
- Christmas vocabulary, Christmas in France.

History

The Year 4 syllabus introduces the students to the Roman Empire, focusing on Britain. The core topic will be Boudicca's uprising. We shall then proceed into the Early Middle Ages (the Dark Ages), with the focus being on kings Offa (Offa's Dyke and Celtic Wales), Alfred and Aethelstan (creating Saxon England). Next will be the High Middle Ages, initially focusing on the Norman Invasion and Conquest. The key skills will be chronological understanding, continuity and change and an appreciation of causes and consequences.

RS

During the autumn term, boys have an introduction to Hinduism. They will learn about some of the main Hindu beliefs, how they worship and how they celebrate their faith.

Latin

Latin is introduced via the course book, *Minimus 1*. It provides an opportunity for boys to translate simple stories in Latin, to understand some vocabulary and grammar and to identify derivations in English (and occasionally in French). The key objectives are: to engage and maintain interest and curiosity about the Graeco-Roman world, to introduce boys to aspects of the Latin language, to provide a stimulating environment for the development of skills related to the learning of Latin, to establish links between the Latin language and English and to introduce boys to non-linguistic aspects of the ancient world with particular reference to Greek myth. In the Autumn Term, boys will be introduced to key vocabulary, there will be a focus on nouns and adjectives, some regular verbs plus the irregular verb 'to be' and we will also study the story of Perseus and the gorgon Medusa.

Geography

The geography curriculum is a spiral curriculum in which the boys will revisit topics and build on their knowledge and understanding of various geographical topics. It is intended that the boys will become interested in the world around them and they will be encouraged to ask questions and carry out enquiries to their questions. They will develop their skills in reading maps and increase their knowledge of the world by learning about countries and their capital cities. They will learn that their world is constantly changing and through the topic of earthquakes and volcanoes, the boys will start to understand physical processes and reflect on the impact that natural disasters have in the local area.

Drama

Drama is a great way for the boys to start to understand literature, in autumn term we explore how characters can be shown through actions and we focus on working as a team when we create our own short plays. We use games and actions to build confidence and all get a turn to perform! We also study the art of storytelling and how stories have been told over the years, including fables.

Digital Skills/ICT

Year 4 are going to start to learn how to find their way around a computer operating system and pick up some essential computer vocabulary along the way. They will be learning about files, folders and drives and the all important saving of work in an organised way. Apps and operating systems will

also be covered. MS Office suite will also be introduced and the basic features shown. The importance of online safety and vigilance will also be frequently discussed.

Art

Year 4 go straight into the workshop picking up junior hacksaws and sawing battens to size in order to fabricate a mould for a maze that will then be vacuum formed to construct a marble run game. Along the way they will learn about the brilliance of plastic but also the unfortunate colossal downsides of the material. The boys will be taught the importance of workshop safety guidelines, working with precision and also an optimistic attempt will be made to instil the benefits of tidying as you go!

Games

In Year 4 the introduction to The Mall School approach to Football is developed. The basic skill structure and concepts are imparted to the boys. This foundation development is drawn upon throughout the school. The objective is for each boy to represent the school in competitive matches against other schools and for our better players to aspire to play in the A and B teams. All boys travel to Sunbury Cricket Club for their Games Afternoons.

PE

Boys study gymnastics and fitness in the first part of the term, moving on to address using flight and the shapes they can present using their actions. Basketball is also covered. Pupils begin to play a larger version of the game introducing further basketball specific rules to play.

Swimming

In the Autumn Term the boys are introduced to more technical aspects of the basic strokes. Times are taken over 20 metres to measure improvement and the better boys are invited to represent the school in competitive swimming galas both nationally and against local opposition.

Music

Boys will develop their singing technique including breathing, sound production and diction through a range of exercises and short songs. They will also explore the instruments of ancient Egypt in preparation for learning some longer songs on the theme of 'The Egyptians'. We will add instrumental accompaniments and develop their ability to play in time with others. The project will also encourage the boys to start appraising their own performances and that of others through watching, listening and discussing performance skills and how to communicate with an audience. In the second half of term, they will also prepare for the Christmas carol service.

NVR

During the autumn term the boys will be introduced to non-verbal reasoning. They will be learning about searching for patterns, for example, by counting, looking at shapes, and using rotation and reflection.

VR

During the autumn term, the boys learn about a range of grammatical rules and explore how plurals and homophones work. They look at letter order, word puzzles and extend their vocabulary using a dictionary.