

Year 4 Autumn 2023 Curriculum Guide

English

Pupils will build on the basic comprehension skills they learnt in Year 3 and will begin to respond to a question using the format of statement/explain. These tasks will link to the development of key writing skills that cover both fiction and non-fiction styles each week. In addition to this, pupils take part in a weekly spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons and will learn a poem by heart to promote spoken language skills.

The class reader this term is *Hamish and the Worldstoppers* and in addition to this pupils will be expected to complete Accelerated Reader quizzes throughout the term on suitable Year 4 texts. Reading every day is recorded in the Reading Record.

Visualisation exercises and spelling tests take place every week. Homework includes comprehension, creative writing and SPAG tasks.

Maths

During the autumn term the pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils will also be using MyMaths and ttRockstars to support their classwork and their homework.

Science

The first half term, pupils 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, calculating volumes of irregular objects (Archimedes' principle), and measuring the periods of pendulums.

The second half term, our topic is electricity. We explore static electricity by doing simple charge experiments, looking at lightning, and the Van der Graaf generator; current electricity by building circuits and sending Morse code messages; which material are conductors, and which are insulators; the difference between battery and mains electricity; why mains electricity is dangerous, and how to stay safe in the home; and we make fruit batteries. We conclude by

looking at magnetism: we investigate which materials are magnetic, look at magnetic levitation, consider how compasses work, and make our own needle compass.

French

The key objectives in French are to engage our pupils and communicate our passion for French and modern languages in general, to unlock the full potential of our pupils' ability to speak and write French, to promote a love of speaking a foreign language through entertaining and engaging teaching techniques and to introduce our students to the culture, geography and history of France.

The topic areas and grammar for the autumn term are as follows: Classroom instructions. 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). Christmas vocabulary, Christmas in France.

Latin

Pupils will be introduced to Latin and Roman history with some excursions into Greek myth. Lessons are based around the course book, Minimus 1, which provides an opportunity for pupils to learn about a real Roman family who lived at Vindolanda near Hadrian's wall at the beginning of the second century AD. They will translate simple stories in Latin, learn basic vocabulary and grammar and 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 pupils 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 pupils to non-linguistic aspects of the ancient world with particular reference to Greek myth. In the Autumn Term, pupils will be introduced to key vocabulary, there will be a focus on nouns and adjectives, and some regular verbs plus the irregular verb 'to be'.

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

This term we shall have a brief introduction to Hinduism: what do Hindus worship, how they worship and how they celebrate.

Geography

During the autumn term, the pupils will study volcanoes and earthquakes, including case studies of Mount Vesuvius and San Francisco..

Digital Skills

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 and design

Using Seashells and Corrals of Western Australia as our inspiration, we'll explore the process of creating an art piece from observation of Nature.

We'll start with a simple pencil and progress to a charcoal drawing while learning how to represent a 3D object on paper. We'll learn about elements of art: Line, Shape and Form.

We'll work with charcoal and chalk and use black and white photographs as guidelines for shading and texture. We'll learn how to independently develop realistic drawing into an abstract piece of art by adding colour and using mixed media.

We'll finish by creating a 3d object inspired by our topic of Seashells using 2-piece mould compound and clay.

Music

Pupils will explore the history of European Medieval music (sacred and secular) and learn about early instruments, notation and genres. They will write and sing their own plainsong chant and compose a dance tune, which they will perform to the class using their own or classroom instruments. In the second half of term, they will also prepare for the Christmas carol service and will develop their singing technique including breathing, sound production and diction, through a range of exercises alongside the carols. Both projects will encourage pupils to start appraising their own performances and that of others through watching, listening and discussing performance skills (eg how to communicate with an audience).

Drama

This term pupils will be practising their chosen poems for the LAMDA exam. In addition to working on their performance skills they will practise answering questions about their chosen poem.

Games

The Mall School approach to Football is developed. The basic skill structure and concepts are imparted to the pupils. This foundation development is drawn upon throughout the school. All pupils represent the school in competitive matches against other schools. Pupils are streamed into squads based upon what would be the most appropriate challenge for them during games sessions and matches. All pupils travel to Sunbury Cricket Club for their games afternoons.

PE

Pupils 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

Pupils are introduced to more technical aspects of the basic strokes. Times are taken over 20 metres to measure improvement. Those pupils who display good ability compared to others are invited to represent the school in competitive swimming galas both nationally and against local opposition.

NVR

During the summer term, the pupils will be tackling written and online non-verbal reasoning exercises. They will continue to learn searching for patterns, for example, by counting, looking at shapes, and using rotation and reflection. There will be a written exam for this subject.

VR

This term, pupils develop their comprehension skills and explore figurative language in passages. They will also examine logic puzzles and find hidden information in texts. Towards the end of term, Year 4 will move onto the Year 5 syllabus preparing them for next year.