

This half term Year 4 are learning about:



English

In English, we will start the term by exploring and reading diary entries, writing a diary entry based on the text 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry. Afterwards, the children will learn how to write shape poems and will then end the term by consolidating the year's foci.

In Spelling, our focus will be on prefixes and suffixes. The children will learn how these change the meaning of the words.

In Guided Reading sessions, the children will be learning how to find evidence in the text to support their inference skills and what the gist of the text is.

In Story Time, we will be reading 'Lost words' by Robert Macfarlane. This is a hand-illustrated, large-format poetry book celebrating the magic and wonder of the natural world which looks at words that are disappearing from our daily vocabulary.

Mathematics



In Mathematics, we will begin the term by learning how to describe the positions of objects and figures. We will then learn how to describe positions on grids using coordinates. We will be introduced to the x axis and the y axis and build an understanding of how coordinates are written. Finally, we will learn how to translate shapes using the terms 'left', 'right', 'upwards' and 'downwards', and will use coordinates to describe a figure following a translation.

We will then spend time revising addition and subtraction strategies to solve two-step word problems. Afterwards, we will focus on multiplication and division strategies and finally, the children will spend the remainder of the term securing their year 4 mathematical knowledge in preparation for Year 5.

Geography: Volcanoes

In Geography, our focus will be on the physical geography of our planet. We will use our map skills to identify what a volcano is and where they are in the world. We will then explore what happens when a volcano erupts and identify different types of volcanoes. We will use our knowledge of the globe to identify what tectonic plates are and what the 'ring of fire' is. Finally, we will explore life in volcanic areas.

Science: Rocks and fossils

In Science, we will begin by learning about the 3 different types of rock and how they are formed. We will use our classification skills to group different rocks by their type and identify their properties. We will then learn about how fossils are formed and the life of Mary Anning. Finally, we will investigate different types of soils and their formations. We will then classify different soil samples we have collected from our surroundings.

DT

In DT, we will be using our previous work on electricity to design and create our own torches. We will start by identifying the features of a torch, thinking about its functionality. We will then investigate and design a switch and the outer casing of our product. After that, we will use what we have found out to create our own functioning torch. Finally, we will evaluate our product against our design brief.

PE

In PE, our new topic is cricket. In our lessons, we will be building on our knowledge and skills from Year 3. We will learn how to hit a ball with a bat with some accuracy, develop our fielding skills and vary tactics in a game. We will finally, evaluate our own performance in a match. The children will continue to swim weekly and are working on building their stamina in the pool with the aim of them swimming with confidence.

Key Vocabulary

This term, some of the words that we will be learning in Year 4 include:

- metamorphic
- puberty
- compression
- reconciliation
- molten

Things to do at home:

- ❖ Regular reading with your child.
- ❖ Encouraging your child to play TTRS for 10 minutes a day.
- ❖ Taking your child swimming.

RE/PSHE



In first RE topic, the children will complete their 'Building Bridges' unit learning about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will learn about building bridges of friendship and the importance of admitting when we are wrong and being reconciled with one another and God. Next in RE, our final topic, is 'God's People', the children will learn about how ordinary people who do extraordinary things and how different saints show people what God is like. They will also continue to plan and deliver whole class liturgical prayer sessions.

PSHE

This half term our missions are related to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The themes are piety, knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and counsel. These will be introduced and discussed in our Mission Circles, assemblies and liturgies. We will also reflect on them in our whole class circle times.

RSE

In RSE, our module is called 'Created and Loved by God' which explores the individual. Rooted in the teaching that we are made in the image and likeness of God, it helps the children to develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships. In this Unit, children will learn to celebrate similarities and differences, and to appreciate and look after their bodies as gifts from God. Teaching also covers specific physical and emotional changes during puberty, and that growing from boys and girls to men and women is part of God's loving plan for creation.