

Year 4 Autumn overview

Dear Parents,

A big welcome back to the new term, I hope you have had a fabulous summer holiday. I am looking forward to getting to know your children as we embark on the new year together and anticipate many exciting times ahead. We have some very interesting themes we are going to be learning about through exciting activities and projects in order to help the children achieve their targets.

To begin the new academic year the whole school is focusing on British Values and what it means to be British. We will be exploring this through a range of activities and discussions in class throughout the first week back. All of the activities throughout the week will help to create a display of the children's work to show their understanding of the five British values. We will then be moving onto our autumn 1 topic 'Romans Rule' followed by our 'Reign over us' topic after half term.

We will also be practicing and preparing our class Harvest assembly which will be performed in October.

Literacy

As writers we will be looking at a range of fiction and non-fiction texts throughout the term, beginning with myths and legends and writing diaries from the perspective of a Roman soldier. The children will be given a variety of opportunities to unpick texts and determine what makes them a good piece of writing and how they can apply this to their own writing. The aim of this process is to help shape the children's ideas, and help enable them to produce fantastic pieces of writing for a range of different purposes and audiences.

Over the year we will continue to build on previously taught reading skills in order to develop confidence with a wider variety of texts alongside answering a range of comprehension questions relating to the text. The children will be given opportunities to read independently throughout the week, alongside reading with myself, using a book they are reading at home. Therefore, children should have their reading books and diaries in school each day. Over the week children will also be participating in a 'big read' as a whole class and 'little reads' where they will be working with an adult or independently to complete tasks based around the book we are reading as a whole class.

As part of our 'Look who's reading' display I will try and catch the children reading in different places and times of the day within school. If you happen to find them reading in an interesting location, position or with a sibling or family member please feel free to send in pictures to add to the display!

Basic skills

Throughout the week children will take part in basic skills lessons focussed around developing their skills in spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting. We will also use this as an opportunity to develop our sentence structure by incorporating new grammatical techniques. Each week we will focus on a new spelling rule which will be sent home with the homework and tested on a Friday during our spelling lesson.

Numeracy

As mathematicians we will be refreshing and developing our basic place value and arithmetic skills based around the four operations throughout the first half term. We can then begin to apply these skills to answer more complex word problems and reasoning questions. The children will also need to continue working on their times tables at home and within school and will take part in a weekly times tables quiz as part of their maths clubs.

Science

As scientists in year 4 we will be focussing on the topic of electricity and different inventions. This will allow us to participate in a range of practical activities including building circuits and investigating conductors. This will help the children to develop their ability to work and think scientifically. We will also be looking at 'animals including humans' where we will explore the human digestive system and teeth, including how to keep them healthy. We will also be creating food chains working on our identification of producers, predators and prey and understanding of how each part of a food chain affects the other.

History

As historians the children will be learning about the Romans. We will be exploring the historical significance of the impact the Roman Empire had on Europe including learning about invasions and the inventions that have shaped modern day Britain. After half-term we will be focussing on the history of the monarchy and will study past Kings and Queens and the impact they had on Britain.

R.E

In R.E we will begin by focussing on Christianity. We will discuss what Christians learn from the creation story and how it impacts values. The children will be digging deeper during their R.E lessons in order to help them gain a deeper understanding of religion and cultures. After half-term we will be focusing on inclusion, identity and belonging across varying religions including Sikhism and Islam.

Art and design

As artists we will be designing and making Roman mosaics and shields to link to our theme topic for this half term.

Geography

In geography we will use maps and atlases to locate different areas impacted by the Roman Empire. We will also be building our recognition of the different shapes of continents; with a focus on Europe and identifying individual countries within it. We will then move onto exploring weather patterns throughout the world.

PE

Children will continue with swimming this term on a *Monday* morning and will have a PE lesson on a *Thursday* afternoon. Please ensure children have the appropriate kits on these days in order to participate. In PE on a Thursday we will be learning the rules, skills and tactics of netball followed by dance after half term.

French

In French the children will be developing their ability to name and create descriptions of people. We will then move onto learn the names of colours and apply this to describe objects.

Music

As musicians the children will listen to a wide range of music including the work of famous composers. We will continue to sing with expression during our assemblies.

Homework

I encourage children to continue reading for pleasure at home either independently or with others throughout the year, and will often ask them about the books they are reading or for reviews. Spellings will be sent home weekly for the children to practise before their quiz on a Friday and children should be practising their times tables weekly too. Home lives are always understandably very busy so children should also be practising their use of the four operations for maths and writing skills at home whenever possible and occasionally a task will be sent home to help assist with this. There are lots of websites children can use to help make this more fun and if you need any more support with this please feel free to ask.

Please feel free to approach me at the end of the day should you have questions or concerns.

I'm looking forward to a fun filled year full of learning and new experiences and I hope the children are too!

Kind regards,

Miss Pullin