

Year 4 Newsletter

Summer 2

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Ravishing Rivers!

In this topic, we will use geographical skills to investigate the journey of a river from source to sea.

Our English learning this half term:

Reading:

In Guided Reading this half term, we will be focusing on the following objectives:

- Continue to listen to and discuss a wide range of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays and reference texts.
- Identify the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these.
- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence clearly taken from the text.
- Identify how language can be used to contribute to meaning (ie to persuade, to entertain).
- Use dictionaries to check the meaning of words that we have read.

Writing:

In Year 4, we will be developing the following writing skills:

- Plan his/her writing by discussing writing similar to that which we are planning to write.
- Draft and write by organising paragraphs around a theme.
- Draft and write non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices.
- Evaluate and edit by proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences, expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials.
- Confidently read writing aloud to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.

We will be writing explanation texts and diary entries, developing the following skills:

- Using well-chosen language to engage the reader.
- Use topic sentences to structure our paragraphs.
- Use a range of sentence openers.
- Use appropriate vocabulary to the text type and audience – eg using technical vocabulary in our explanation texts.
- Use emotive language within diary entries.
- Use connecting adverbs and phrases.

In grammar, we will be learning about the following areas: paragraphs, causal conjunctions, using a dictionary, plural possessive apostrophes, past and present perfect tense.

Our Maths learning this half term:

We will revisit some of our work on statistics and decimals before focusing on measure.

Statistics

- Interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs.
- Solve comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in bar charts, pictograms, tables and other graphs.

Decimals

- Find and write decimal equivalents using tenths and hundredths.
- Find and write decimal equivalents of $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$.
- Divide one and two digit numbers by 10 and 100 and can explain the effect this has on place value.
- Round decimals using tenths to the nearest whole number.
- Compare numbers with the same number of decimal places (up to two decimal places).
- Solve simple money and measure problems involving decimals with up to two decimal places.

Measure

- Convert different units of measurement e.g. I can convert kilometres into metres or hours into minutes.
- Estimate, compare and calculate different measures, including money in pounds and pence.
- Read, write and compare time between analogue and digital 12-hour and 24-hour clocks.
- Solve problems where I need to convert units of time such as hours to minutes, minutes to seconds, years to months or weeks to days.

Our Science and Computing learning this half term:

Science – Environmental Change

Our unit of science this half term is focused on the environment and the impact of humans upon it, both negative and positive. We will be covering the following knowledge areas:

- Identify different living things in our local, and the wider, environment.
- Recognise how environments can change and the dangers this can pose to living things.

We will be developing the following enquiry skills:

- Recognise when a simple fair test is necessary and help to decide how to set it up
- Group, sort and classify using criteria and simple keys
- Recognise when and how secondary sources need to be used to answer questions
- Make systematic observations. Make decisions about what observations to make, how long to make them for and the type of equipment needed
- Notice natural patterns and decide what data to collect to identify them.

Computing

Our unit of computing this half term will be on programming, with a focus on repetition.

- I know what an algorithm is and can give some examples of what algorithms can be used for.
- I can design a program on paper.
- I can repeat something a certain number of times.
- I can write my own algorithm.
- I can write my own programs.

Our Humanities learning this half term:

Geography:

Our geography learning will focus upon rivers and their characteristics.

We will be developing the following geographical skills:

- **Locational knowledge:** Use a map or atlas to locate some countries and cities in Europe and rivers around the world
- **Place knowledge:** Compare and describe similarities and differences between some regions in Europe and the UK (eg: compare cities and their surrounding areas).
- **Physical geography:** Explore rivers, biomes and vegetation belts within Europe and their importance to human geography.
- **Human geography:** Can describe the main land uses within urban areas and the activities that take place there; explore the importance of rivers upon settlements and their location.
- **Geographical skills:** Use a range of methods including sketch maps, plans, graphs and digital technologies.

RE:

In RE, we will be exploring sacred texts and their importance, and answer the question 'what moral guidance do sacred texts provide?'

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, we will be looking at food and drink and applying some of our grammar learning to this.

Our Creative Arts learning this half term:

Art: We will developing our use of collage to produce our own artworks – we will use the work of Jeannie Baker as an inspiration.

We will develop the following skills:

- Use sketchbooks to collect and record visual information from different sources.
- Develop techniques to create intricate patterns using different grades of pencil and other implements/media to create lines, marks and develop tone.
- Begin to work in the style of an artist.
- Create intricate patterns

Music: Composing

- Composing harmony with score and recording themes for media.
- Developing songwriting skills and performing songs to peers.

Our PE and PSHE learning this half term:

PE: Our PE units this half term are Athletics and Rounders

Athletics

Use the push and pull technique, perfect the long jump and learn the triple jump technique. Develop running speeds to be used within a competitive environment and learn the full relay with a baton.

Rounders

Continue to develop their knowledge of rounders. Learn the basic rules and introduce scoring to make it competitive. Develop bowling (speed), fielding (overarm throw) and introduce batting technique.

PSHE:

Our unit this half term is 'Healthy Lifestyles'.

Healthy Lifestyles

- Know that they can make choices which are healthy or unhealthy and reflect on their own lifestyle.
- Know that eating healthily, being active and sleeping all contribute to a healthy lifestyle.
- Understand some of the reasons people sometimes make unhealthy choices.
- Be able to talk about some of the physical and mental benefits of exercise.
- Know that a healthy lifestyle involves choosing a range of activities, some of which will be more active than others.
- Be able to state some of the influences on food choices and some of the persuasive methods used in advertising.
- Understand why our bodies need foods from each of the food groups and be able to suggest daily menus or meals.
- Be able to talk about the benefits of food for our bodies and plan and prepare simple healthy meals or snacks.
- Know why dental hygiene is important and how they can look after their teeth.

Key Vocabulary

Key Vocabulary for this half term:

Maths: count, tally, sort, data graph, block graph, bar chart, tally chart table, frequency table, Carroll diagram, Venn diagram, label, title, axis, diagram, balances, weigh, weighs kilogram (kg), gram (g) balance, scales, unit, heavier/lighter, measuring, fortnight, millennium, year, leap year, elapsed, difference, interval, arrive, depart, digital, analogue

English: topic sentence, paragraph, introduction, sub-heading, facts, diagram, present tense, sentence, clause, causal/explanation connective, statement, command, question, rhetorical question, technical vocabulary, chronological order,

Science: environment, climate, habitat, global warming, deforestation, conservation, species, adaptation, greenhouse effect,

Geography:

Rivers, stream, lake, sea, channel, source, mouth, waterfall, delta, floodplain, tributary, current, rapids, meander, valley, riverbanks, stage, upper course, middle course, lower course, water cycle, condensation, evaporation, precipitation, water run-off, deposit, altitude, erodes, sediment, floods, droughts, rainfall and river study.