



# Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

October 2015

Dear Parents,

We cannot believe that the first half term is over and we are already almost into November. The children are now fully settled in to the school and class routines and successfully produced some excellent work during our first topic of the Iron Man. It was great to meet so many of you at the parents event and we look forward to seeing even more of you at our forthcoming parents evening in the next few weeks.

We have a very action packed half term ahead of us with lots of Chocolate related fun to be had. The children were very excited when we launched our new Chocolate topic last week and we are all looking forward to the learning that will be taking place. Please keep checking our blog through Firefly. We are updating the year 4 section regularly with pictures and news about what we are doing in school and of course the homework will be added every Friday.

## MATHS

In Maths this half term we will be mostly focusing on:

Re-cap the four operations, progressing on to using the most efficient method	Solve addition and subtraction two-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why  Estimate and use inverse operations to check answers to a calculation
Fractions	Recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions  Count up and down in hundredths; recognise that hundredths arise when dividing an object by one hundred and dividing tenths by ten
Fractions	Solve problems to calculate quantities, and fractions to divide quantities  Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator  Recognise and write decimal equivalents of any number of tenths or hundredths  Recognise and write decimal equivalents
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



## ENGLISH

As part of our cross-curricular approach to learning, our English lessons will be related to our theme for this half term, which is Chocolate. Much of our written work will be based upon the popular children's book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl.

We will focus on a variety of genres of writing in relation to this book, including

- Structured poetry [looking at rhyming couplets and kennings]
- Newspaper reporting [as a consolidation of the skills learned in the first half term]
- Story and narrative writing [further improving our ability to write interesting and engaging stories, with rich descriptions of setting and character]
- Diary entries [looking at form and style]
- Persuasive writing [advertising our new Wonka production!]

Children will have the opportunity to create their own chocolate bar, interview characters from the story, debate moral issues and even design a new room for the factory, as well as many other fun and challenging activities.

We will explore a range of grammar topics over the next seven weeks supplementing our main English work, looking at comparatives/superlatives, including a variety of sentences such as compound and complex, and using a range of sentence openers, in addition to our weekly spelling and continued reading requirements.

Literacy workshop lessons will continue, giving additional practise in text comprehension, grammar, handwriting and spelling, as well as focused reading with the teacher.

## THEME

As with our previous half term, all our subject areas link to an overall theme area. This half term will mark the return of our very popular 'Chocolate' theme (we have no idea why this is so popular!)

In Science, we will be looking at teeth and how sugar and other foods can be bad for our teeth. We will also look at healthy eating and the importance of a balanced diet (including a little bit of chocolate!)

In Geography, we will be looking at Fairtrade Chocolate and the Fair Trade in different parts of the world. We will ask 'Why is Fairtrade important?' and 'How is Fairtrade fair?'

In History, we will look at the story of chocolate and where it all began. We will also focus on The Ancient Mayan Civilisation.

Finally, in Design & Technology, all children will have an opportunity to make their very own Chocolate Truffles as a Christmas gift.

An action packed half term that we hope the children will enjoy and gain a lot from. As always if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.



## MANDARIN

Beginner Pupils will be able to talk about persons and things in their immediate environment, as well as their school life. They will be able to recognise simple characters.

Lower Intermediate: Intermediate pupils are going to learn more vocabulary on the topics of “Seasons and weather”, “Time and schedule”, “Subjects and timetable” and “Stationery”. An increasing focus will be placed on how to comprehend a Chinese passage and produce a short paragraph. Students will also have more opportunities to enhance their communication skills in Mandarin by presenting to the class.

Upper-intermediate pupils will be able to speak and write about their thinking, their wishes or imagination. They will learn to use parallelism. An increasing emphasis will be placed on listening and gathering information. They will learn chapters including: 《友谊桥》《我多想》《圈圈圈》. Through these chapters, they will learn more words and expressions in Chinese, which can help them make some sentence or even a short paragraph

Advanced pupils are going to learn some science articles that are related to the moon, wind and water. Through these chapters, they are able to learn more vocabulary and difference sentence patterns. After that, they will write a report about this topic, and be able to present confidently.

## ART

Year 4 pupils will continue with their Vincent van Gogh inspired hat design unit. They will further explore a variety of materials as they continue to think three dimensionally about the aesthetics and ergonomics of their design. Skills in communication will be further developed as they collaborate with their partner to create a hat suitable for the Queen to wear!

## MUSIC

During the second half of term one, Year 4 students will explore the ‘dimensions of music’ through the theme of chocolate, including ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’. Students will listen to a variety of music and improvise, compose and perform multi-ability pieces. They will learn some basic chords on ukulele, and play short melodies by ear and notation. In some lessons, they will develop skills on Yamaha keyboards, and also make recordings.

They will also continue learning violin, flute, saxophone, or trumpet, depending on which class they are in. They will learn a repertoire of well-known seasonal and popular songs, linked to school themes.

## DRAMA

Pupils will engage in a wide range of drama activities from physical theatre to text based performance all based on their learning theme: “Chocolate.” Activities will include: creating their own chocolate making machine and producing a television advert for chocolate.



PE

Individual work will focus on close control and consistency in rugby, football, netball and basketball. Competitive games will be developed to practice and progress sending and receiving skills under pressure. Simple tactics for attacking and defending will be developed.

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team

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