



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

September 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 4! We are very pleased to welcome you and your children to our new school in this new school year. We have had a fantastic start, and we hope that this continues for the rest of the year! We know you may have questions about the learning taking place in class, so this letter aims to provide an indication of the areas of the curriculum covered this half term in Year 4.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Children need to bring in a water bottle every day, to ensure they stay hydrated and in peak condition for learning. We would also like you to remind your child to bring in a cap to keep the sun off at break times, and a healthy snack to eat, perhaps fruit or some crackers.

The children have been given a planner and plastic wallet, which they need to bring to school every day; this will be to note any important information, and to keep letters or forms together and legible.

Children have received a lanyard for their bus cards, and hopefully by now your child's lunch routine has been set and they are getting used to either a school provided lunch or to bringing their own. Finally we are a no nut school, so please no nuts in any snacks or lunch boxes. We do have children with nut allergies, so it is vital we keep the school free of any nut products.

On the days PE takes place, the children are expected to arrive in PE kit. The timetables should be with you by now, but please be aware that these may change from week to week depending on different activities and learning opportunities. The subjects that remained fixed on our timetable are PE, Mandarin, Music, Art and Drama, as specialist teachers teach these lessons.

Marbles are given as a reward in class. They can be given for a number of different reasons, such as giving a great answer, for thinking creatively, for excellent teamwork, for being kind and polite or for being considerate for others feelings. The children work together as a class to earn rewards for their good behaviour and social graces, which as a class they have chosen already.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

ENGLISH

In English we will be focusing on speaking and listening, spelling, grammar and punctuation, handwriting, reading and writing.

During our first week, the children have been writing re-counts of their summer holiday. This has helped to give us an idea of their writing ability and identified areas we need to work on. We will also be completing phonics and spelling assessments so that we know exactly what levels each child is working at. There will be phonics lessons for those children who need it on a regular basis and all children will have spellings to learn every week.

We will begin with letter writing as part of our Picture of Me topic where the children will look at the different features of letters, what a good (and bad one) looks like and how they would write their own. We will be working on up leveling our vocabulary, punctuation and using a variety of sentence types.

We will then move on to writing Non-chronological reports. These reports will be based around the backgrounds of the children to help explain to others in the class about who they are and where they are from. There will again be a big focus on grammar and sentence structure.

MATHS

Children will begin by consolidating their learning from Year 3 before going on to focus on the Year 4 specific objectives. These include place value, mental and written addition and subtraction, time [analogue and digital clocks], money, multiplication and division, handling data and problem solving.

THEME

As part of our cross- curricular approach to learning, our theme for this term will be 'A Picture of Me'. This theme will cover several areas of the curriculum;

In Geography, we will be looking at different countries in the world and comparing them to our local area. We will be looking at physical and human differences and finding out information about our home country.

In Science, we will be looking at the different parts of the human body and how it functions. We will look at teeth and the importance of mouth hygiene. We will be looking at the importance of a balanced diet, good nutrition and conduct several investigations.



MANDARIN

Children will be following the “Picture of Me” theme in their Mandarin Lessons. Although Mandarin is streamed in to 3 groups all children will be taught skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. In Year 4 children will continue to explore these skills through songs and stories. There will be a greater emphasis on sentence structure, grammar and reading comprehension.

Pathway 1 pupils will learn to introduce themselves in Mandarin and express their favourite colours, hobbies and likes and dislikes. E.g. “你好！我叫 xxx。我八岁，我上四年级。我喜欢红色和蓝色。我很喜欢打羽毛球和游泳，每个星期天我都会跟家人一起打羽”

Pathway 2 pupils will describe themselves, their hobbies and interests and will learn to talk about time and sequence by describing their daily routine.

Pathway 3 pupils will be able to speak and write about themselves and their families. They will learn to describe and write about time and sequence by describing their routines. Children will learn to use pronouns to talk about their family life. An increasing emphasis will be placed on listening and gathering information. *Mandarin Team*

DRAMA

Year 4 are developing drama presentations using physical theatre skills and descriptive language. *Miss Bovington*

MUSIC

This half term we will be exploring the theme ‘A Picture of Me’ through a performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Gary Barlow’s recent composition, Sing! Students will sing and perform a melody confidently in a large ensemble using their voices with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression whilst developing their understanding of staff notation. *Miss Rowan*

ART

For the “Picture of Me” theme pupils will be exploring the use of colour to communicate mood before creating a Picasso inspired self- portrait. *Mrs Pate*



PE

Pupils will be following a unit of speed/agility/quickness that will develop their fundamental sporting movements. Pupils will be able to make a connection between movements and major sporting activities. *PE Team*

You can contact the Year 4 team by sending an e-mail or by making an appointment with reception. All our email addresses are listed below. Please do contact us if you have any questions, comments or ideas, as we love to hear from you! We have had the pleasure to meet many of you already; if not, we look forward to meeting you very soon!

Kind regards,

The Year 4 Team

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