

Maths

In Year 4, we have followed the White Rose scheme of learning for mathematics, which commences with the crucial study of Place Value up to 10,000. Children learn to solve addition and subtraction calculations using a range of strategies: beginning with practical manipulatives and drawing out calculations, and progressing to standard written methods. They practice applying these skills to solve practical problems concerning measurement and money. We also introduce a variety of different strategies to solve multiplication and division problems, which include practical and pictorial techniques as well as standard written methods. Efficient recall of multiplication facts is a key focus in year 4. Later in year 4, children are taught to recognise common fractions and equivalent decimals, such as $\frac{1}{2}=0.5$; to find equivalent fractions, to calculate simple fractions of amounts, and to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. In addition to this, they learn the names and properties of polygons, particularly different types of quadrilaterals and triangles; become familiar with using coordinates to describe position on a grid; and learn to interpret and draw line graphs.

English

Throughout year 4, we focus on a wide range of different genres and writing styles, including poems, non-chronological reports, first person and third person narratives, biographies and persuasion. We closely study quality written texts, such as "The Lost Thing" by Shaun Tan, and use these to inspire and inform our style of writing. We also use visual and dramatic experiences, such as the animation "Feast" to facilitate some pieces of work. We follow the VIPERS approach to teaching reading, which builds on developing skills and knowledge of Vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising. We share and analyse a selection of class texts from start to finish – including: "Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx" "The Day I was Erased" "Crater Lake" and "The Land of Roar." We also study theme extracts each week with a focus on non-fiction texts as well as poems, play scripts and even songs!

Science

The study of Science in Year 4 includes a range of fascinating subjects. Within each, there is a strong emphasis on practical learning and the facilitation of unique learning opportunities to encourage children to work scientifically and ask scientific questions. Our various topics include: grouping and classifying living things (both plants and animals); and exploring States of Matter (discovering what makes something a solid, liquid or gas and how materials can change between these different states), Electricity (building and drawing series circuits), Sound (investigating how sounds are made and having fun producing our own sounds using a range of instruments); Habitats (exploring living things found in rural and urban environments and using classification keys) and Food and Digestion (studying teeth, and making our own model of the digestive system, and exploring food chains)

Art

Year 4 study art with the intention of developing both cultured knowledge as well as specific artistic techniques. We explore the similarities and differences between Medieval and Renaissance art as well as looking at popular art movements such as Pop art. The children also work on their portraiture skills -learning to conduct careful observational drawings of themselves, incorporating the use of shade, tone, proportion and colour. They draw 3D objects in conjunction with appropriate shading and are able to use these skills to produce their own drawings of Ancient Egyptian pyramids, leading to a print making. They also use clay to create sculptures inspired by Canopic jars.

DT

In year 4, the children develop their understanding of the various stages of a design process before bringing their own designs to life. They explore and design story books with a range of different mechanisms and appropriate fonts, and practice sewing skills when designing and making their own purses/wallets. In food technology, there is opportunity to taste different fruits, then to develop knife skills and to build on an understanding of food hygiene, as they prepare an individual fruit crumble.

PSHE

We follow the mindful approach to PSHE using the JIGSAW programme, looking at the following topics: Being Me in My World; Celebrating Difference; Dreams and Goals; Healthy Me; Relationships; and Changing Me. Throughout each topic, the children have the opportunity to explore respectful relationships and global citizenship along with the key themes of democracy, equality and diversity. The Jigsaw lessons allow children to advance their emotional awareness, concentration and focus.

RE

Using the JIGSAW RE scheme, Year 4 focus on two world religions: Christianity and Judaism. Each term there is a key question which underpins the exploratory learning across a series of lessons. Questions covered include: How special is the relationship Jews have with God? What is the most important part of the Nativity story for Christians?

Computing

Throughout the year, all children are encouraged to be good digital citizens, acting responsibly and developing an awareness of how to access the digital world safely. We begin the year with a series of internet safety lessons, and these themes are revisited throughout the year. Using “ilearn2” in year 4, our children develop coding skills using Scratch, and later 3D design. In addition, we access the very exciting program Lego Wedo, where children can build functional Lego models before writing a series of coded instructions to allow it to move and fulfil a specific function. In another unit, they learn about Graphic design and animation, creating icons and stop motion animations using power point software. There is some time spent practising and honing internet research skills, which are able to be applied across the curriculum, and developing an understanding of data handling, including storing, sorting and retrieving data efficiently using digital software.

Geography

In year 4, children develop map skills; they learn how to read maps and create simple maps and keys for areas that are familiar. They read and make simple sketch maps, and use digital maps of the local area. We also study Antarctica, learning about human and physical features, and become familiar with the use of grid references and 8-point compass directions. In addition, the children are taught about Where food comes from, considering sustainability and learning about Fair Trade. In our Rivers topic, children learn the uses and features of rivers, and look at important rivers in the UK and worldwide. In each unit there is an element of fieldwork, such as creating questionnaires about food, and exploring river life on a trip to Brock hill Park.

History

History in Year 4 focuses on the development of critical, investigative skills essential for the study of history - through the analysis of a range of authentic sources as well as the knowledge of key historical facts. We delve back in time to look at the culturally rich society of the Ancient Egyptians, discovering what it would have been like to live in ancient Egypt as well as the importance of the River Nile and the role of different Pharaohs. A visit to the Beaney Museum brings this topic to life. We also learn about the Vikings and their cultural impact on Britain, and have a Viking Day experience in school.

P.E.

During the course of the year, the children have a chance to develop their skills in a range of different sports, including football, gymnastics, basketball, dodgeball, dance, hockey, orienteering, rounders, cricket and athletics. Each term the children are encouraged to concentrate on a particular skill, which can then be used within a game situation appropriate to that sport. In gymnastics the focus this year is on refining various jumps and rolls, and our street dance unit develops coordination and choreography.

Spanish

Using “Language Angels” the children in year 4 have built on previous learning to develop a wider vocabulary and a confidence in speaking and listening, as well as translating written Spanish. The units covered in year 4 include fruits, vegetables, introducing ourselves and our families, describing classroom equipment and ordering food in a Cafeteria.

Music

Students in Year 4 had a full term learning to sing and play to ABBA songs during Autumn. They then moved onto a practical term, focusing on playing glockenspiels. Term 3 involved studying hip-hop, grime and Latin-fusion songs written for classrooms. They also practised writing their own rap song lyrics. Later in the year, students studied songs by the Beatles and the effect such music had on the world. Over the year, students also had semi-regular sessions learning entry-level ukulele chords.