



Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back! We hope you have had a very enjoyable summer and are looking forward to your child enjoying learning and achieving throughout their time in year 4. We have lots of exciting and valuable learning opportunities planned for the children and look forward to the year ahead. We would like to begin this year by informing you of the coverage across a range of subjects for the coming half term.

Our topic during Autumn 1 is focused around the enquiry question “Why is the River Tees important to our ‘Darling Town’?” This covers a number of subjects but will have a geography focus and be complemented by a visit to Teesmouth Field Centre where children will have the opportunity to complete field work and build on their understanding of the river system. We will use a range of maps to locate Darlington and explore the course the River Tees takes. We will learn how to read 4 figure grid references and begin to know how to use a compass. We will practise these skills using traditional and ICT based methods. We will use our knowledge of map symbols to look for clues to help us answer our question. We will look at features of rivers and use an atlas to locate rivers around the world as well as those in the UK. We will take part in practical activities to develop an understanding of key geographical processes such as erosion, transportation and deposition. In science, we will begin our longitudinal study in which we will investigate states of matter, defining, grouping and classifying solids, liquids and gasses. The children will discover what scientists do and experience setting up and carrying out a science investigation. Our computing lessons will complement this topic and involve the children using the Lego WeDo resource sets to design an automatic floodgate to control water according to various weather patterns.. Alongside this, e-safety remains an integral part of our approach, reminding children of how to be safe and aware online.

To support our topic further, in English, the children will develop their reading skills, mainly inference, when reading the book ‘Fox’ by Margaret Wild. They will also apply some of their writing skills to extend the story, through writing a conclusion. The children will also be reading the poem ‘River Story’ by Meredith Hooper to explore a narrative poem and the journey of a river through descriptive language.

In Maths, we will be covering place value, including counting in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000. Recognising the value of each digit in a four-digit number (thousands, hundreds, tens and ones,) and ordering and comparing numbers beyond 1000. We will also be practising rounding numbers to the nearest ten and hundred. Further to this, the children will be learning about Roman Numerals and their number system. We will then be working with formal written methods for adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying.

In Music, we will explore ‘The Storm’ by Benjamin Britten. We will be sharing thoughts and feelings about the piece and discussing features to try and establish what it is about. We will be introduced to new technical terms such as tempo, dynamics and crescendo. We will perform from a graphic score, using a range of percussion instruments.

We will be exploring the theme of beliefs and moral values in RE through enquiry. Our key question is “How special is the relationship Jews have with God?” where we will be building upon prior knowledge of the Jewish religion and this unit will help to prepare us for our visit to a Synagogue in Spring 2018.



PSHCE will begin with us discussing our rules and responsibilities in both school and the outside world. We will then discuss and debate issues that impact on the environment, locally, nationally and internationally. We will also learn how to be safe near rivers and open water.

PE is on a Monday and Friday, although it is advisable to leave both indoor and outdoor PE kits at school during the week as sometimes sporting opportunities occur outside of PE slots. We will be working on our gymnastics skills indoors and this will culminate in us preparing and performing gymnastic routines. Whilst in our outdoor sessions we will be learning how to play tag rugby, practising our ball skills and demonstrating good teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. We will continue to run the 'daily mile'.

Across the school, homework will be given out on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday at the latest.

Reading books will be changed on a Monday and a Friday, unless your child is a 'free reader.' In this instance, they are asked to change them independently, as required, although we do request they hand their home contact book in on a Friday to enable us to monitor their home reading. We have a water fountain inside our classroom but children may bring a water bottle in if they wish.

Please continue to read the online newsletter available on the school website for up-and-coming events. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your support.

The Year 4 team

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