

During this half term our enquiry question is: **How has Darlington changed and why is it important today?**

Through this enquiry, children will explore the rich history and geography of Darlington, discovering how the town has grown and changed over time. They will investigate important landmarks such as the Clock Tower, the Pease family's influence, and the world-famous Darlington to Stockton Railway. Using maps past and present, pupils will engage in geography fieldwork to explore Darlington, surveying the use of land, investigating how it has changed over time and the possible causes for this, while identifying human and physical features. They will research and discuss how Darlington has regenerated and continues to develop, comparing life in the past with today. The topic will culminate in pupils applying their knowledge to design a 'Visitor Trail' of Darlington, highlighting the town's most significant places and explaining why people should want to visit them and considering ideas for future town improvement.

Read through the attached knowledge organiser with your child and check they understand the content. You could ask them to explain it to you – 'teaching' you helps them to reinforce their own learning. Quiz facts out of order to check children really know the fact and have not just memorised the order on the page!

Subject	Activities / areas to be covered in school	Possible learning at home
English	In English, we will be spending the first part of the autumn term revisiting and learning new punctuation and grammar skills including: common, proper, abstract, collective and partitive nouns; regular action verbs and verb phrases; verb tenses and subject verb agreement. These skills will be developed at sentence level to ensure accurately constructed and punctuated single and multi-clause sentences using conjunctions to join clauses. Each day, we will also focus on the development of reading comprehension and fluency skills. Our class novel for this half term is 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell We will also be reading the picture book 'Fox' by Margaret Wild as one of our focus texts. Through this beautifully told story with its amazing illustrations, we will be able to explore dilemmas, emotions and the value of friendship as well as practise the reading skills of retrieval and inference. Linked with our enquiry topic, the children will work towards writing a non-chronological report about the history of Darlington. In spelling, we will be continuing to follow Lingfield Trust's spelling programme called 'Spelling Bee'. Each week, the children will focus on a spelling pattern, and they will receive a list of words that contain this pattern. They will be encouraged to explore other words beyond the list that use this pattern.	Read a story together and talk about it. Discuss what happened, the characters, how the story made you feel and what you liked/disliked about it. Encourage your child to read at home (at least 3 times a week). Children should read their schoolbook to an adult and record this in their record book. Children who are free readers may wish to enjoy reading to themselves as well as sharing their book with an adult at home. This should also be recorded in their reading record book. Reading for pleasure is also strongly encouraged so your child may want to read something of their choice simply because they want to. This is wonderful. Collect and read some leaflets and talk about the purpose, layout and organisation of the information. Practise reading and writing their spelling words each week and look back at words from previous weeks, double checking that they can still remember them. Visit the library and choose from the array of books held there.
Maths	In Maths, we will be covering place value. This will include recognising the value of each digit in a four-digit number (thousands, hundreds, tens and ones) and ordering and comparing numbers up to 10 000. We will also be practising rounding numbers to the nearest ten and hundred. In addition to this, the children will be learning about Roman Numerals and their number system. We will then be working with formal written	Helping children at home to develop quick recall of addition and subtraction facts and times tables will be hugely beneficial. This can be done in a variety of ways including:

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	methods for adding and subtracting. In separate fluency sessions, we will be revising addition and subtraction facts within 20 and developing quick recall of these. We will also be beginning the Mastering Number Programme which focuses on developing children's understanding and recall of times tables.	* Using TTRS and Numbots apps regularly at home * Asking children quick fire questions * Playing games involving children counting up scores e.g. 21 Card Game
Geography	Starting in our own immediate locality, Year 4 will begin by exploring our own local area of Darlington, past and present. We will use maps at different scales, from world maps to local street maps, to understand where Darlington is in the wider world. We will identify physical and human features of the town and learn how to use symbols and grid references to read and create our own maps. We will compare historical and modern maps to see how places such as Faverdale have changed over time, linking changes in land use to industry and regeneration, and think about why these changes happened. Finally, we will use everything we have learned to design a "Visitor Trail" showing the most important landmarks and features of Darlington.	Take a walk around your local area with your child and let them take a selfie in their favourite spot. Together identify any human and physical features that you can see. Ask your child to create a route for someone to follow. If you can, travel the route with them to see if they can work it out noting prominent human and physical features on the way. If you need to, use compass directions to help explain which way to go! Look at ordnance survey maps of different areas and places and together work out what some of the symbols mean. Find out how to encourage wildlife to your garden. https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/year-round-gardening/september/
History	Linked to Geography, we will investigate how Darlington has changed over time and find out about the people and events that have shaped our town. We will learn about the Stockton and Darlington Railway and its significance to our town, the Northeast and the wider world, as well as the Pease family and the impact they had on Darlington. We will use old photographs, maps and stories to discover what life in our town was like in the past and compare it with life today. Next, we will visit the town centre to walk the town trail and look at old photographs of the town. This will enable us to explore what was important to Darlington in the past and look at the key changes that have happened in the town over the last century and before. We will also explore how areas such as Faverdale have developed over the years. Finally, we will use our historical knowledge to explain why Darlington is special and how its history has helped to make it the town we know today.	Look at family photographs to find out more about past relatives' lives. Encourage your child to talk to grandparents/ great grandparents and ask questions to find out what they remember about Darlington/ the town that they grew up in when they were a child. Carry out your own research to find out more about what Darlington was like in the past!
PSHE	This term, children will be completing the unit, 'My Healthy Self.' In this unit children will look at the role of different food groups and describe why eating a variety of foods is important. Children will look at how they can be active and why being active keeps them healthy and strong. Children will also be looking at growth mindset and thinking about behaviours and how they can positively and negatively affect their energy levels.	Discuss foods children are eating at home and which food groups they belong to. Discuss with children how they can stay active at home and encourage them to set goals. Have conversations on how this can support a positive mindset.

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Art/DT	In Art the children will build on their printing skills through block printing. They will design a logo representing Darlington before transferring it onto their printing tile. In DT the children will be sewing their own re-usable bag. They will learn about seam allowance and explore basting stitch and running stitch techniques. Once complete, they will use their printing tile to print their logo onto their bag.	Try and remember what you have seen whilst out in the environment and draw from memory. Use potatoes and paint to print your own patterns and shapes. <i>What other objects can you use to create print?</i> Look closely at how a bag is put together – seams, hems, fastenings, detail.
Science	During our science sessions, Year 4 will become States of Matter Scientists! They will develop and showcase an understanding of all areas of states of matter, including how materials can change from one state to another, through a large range of simple practical enquiries. Children will develop their scientific investigation skills by asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them, including practical, comparative and fair tests. They will make systematic and careful observations and take accurate measurements.	Investigate different states of matter with your child. Look around your house and make a list of different solids, liquids and gases that you can find. Encourage your child to describe materials that are solids, liquids and gases. What does it feel like? What does it look like? Can you squash it? Can you pour it? Investigate how to change liquid to solid by making ice pops or sugar crystals on a string. https://lifestyle.howstuffworks.com/crafts/science-projects/science-projects-for-kids-states-of-matter2.htm <i>Is it possible to change the solids back into a liquid?</i>
Music	This term, the children will develop their learning of the ukulele on a Wednesday afternoon when Mrs Guest from Durham Music Services will come into school. The children will learn to play notes on the ukulele as well as develop their knowledge and understanding of key musical terms including pitch, dynamics, tempo and notation.	Research and listen to some music played with a ukulele. What do you like about it? Is it similar to any other instruments that you know?
Religious Education	In RE, Year 4 will be investigating the question - What Kind of World Did Jesus Want? In this unit, pupils will explore the Christian concept of 'Gospel'. They will learn about the 'Good News' that Christians believe Jesus brings, exploring stories from Jesus' life and teachings. Pupils will discover how Jesus called his first disciples and consider how his teachings encourage Christians today to live and treat others, helping them to think about the kind of world Jesus wanted.	Talk together: What kind of world do you think Jesus wanted? How could we help make the world more like this? Read a Bible story: Read a story about Jesus, such as <i>The Good Samaritan</i> , and talk about what it teaches us. Kindness challenge: Choose one way to show kindness or help someone each day.
Computing	In computing, Year 4 will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and will be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves in order to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally, they will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.	Use the World Wide Web to carryout safe research around our enquiry or another topic of interest. Discuss accurate and reliable information as they find and use it. Discuss the safety access of sharing information online.

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Physical Education	In PE, we will be developing our gymnastics skills. We will begin by reminding ourselves of the key shapes and how to perform these with control. We will then progress to travelling at different speeds and directions before holding point balances. We will travel over equipment and create a short sequence incorporating all of our new learning. We will focus on accuracy and control throughout. Outdoor PE for C8 will be Tag Rugby. During these sessions, the children will develop the skills that players need, to play both defensively and offensively as a tag rugby player. The children will learn how to catch and throw while both stationary and, on the move, as well as making tactical decisions about when to make passes and tags. C7 will be completing swimming sessions this half term.	PE days in Year 4 will be Monday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor for C8 and swimming for C7). The children should come to school dressed in their PE kit. They will need spare footwear as the weather changes but they do not need to bring in uniform to change into afterwards. Ask your child if they can remember the basic shapes and show these to you. Practise putting these into short sequences. Play 'Piggy in the Middle' whilst moving to practise skills needed for Tag Rugby!
French	In French the children will focus on the basic phonetics within the French language before recapping their knowledge of numbers up to 20 and the months of the year.	Children can practise counting to 20 in French and reciting the months of the year.