



Viaduct Federation of Schools



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back to the beginning of the Spring Term! We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas break and would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. The children have settled back into their routines well and have shown enthusiasm for our new topic 'The Mayans'. During the second half of Spring Term, we will be holding another parents evening but if you have any questions prior to this, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

The Year 4 Team.

Subject Overviews

English

During this half term, we will be developing our skills of persuasion by creating a persuasive text aimed at encouraging the reader to visit the chocolate factory from Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. After, we will be focusing on our descriptive skills to describe scenes from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. To do this, we will focus on developing words and phrases that capture their reader's interest and imagination by writing effectively for purpose.

Maths

The children will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of topics in Maths including solving problems involving the four operations, numbers, fractions as well as units of measure. Throughout this term, the children will still be given regular opportunities to practise and embed their times tables facts during our afternoon sessions and we encourage the children to practise regularly at home to help earn their Times Tables certificates.

Science

During the Spring term, we will be focusing on the topic of Electricity. We will be looking at electrical symbols, how to draw electrical circuits and of course building our own to power bulbs, buzzers and small motors. The children will also be investigating the conductivity of a range of materials.

Computing

During this half term, we will learn how to use a computer aided design programme to assist in packaging design. We will develop our skills of collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information.

PSHE

This half term, we will focus our PSHE work on mental health. The children will discuss and recognise how to express and talk about their emotions by using a varied vocabulary of words. They will also be able to apply this when talking about others' feelings. The children will explore what sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others and identify who to talk to when they need support.

History

To begin the term, we will be focussing our work on 'The Mayans.' During this topic, we will learn about Mayan culture, customs and beliefs and compare these to British history. We will continue to develop our understanding of chronology by placing key events on a timeline. To show our understanding and answer historical questions, we will learn how to use a range of historical sources to support our ideas.

Art

Linking to our Mayans topic, we will study traditional Mayan stelae, including the key design features and structures. We will explore the different methods, techniques and tools to join clay and add detail. We will then design, make and evaluate our own stelae against a success criteria.

French

In the first half term, we will continue to work with Mrs Coffey to develop our written language as well as continuing to develop accurate punctuation and intonation when reading. We will also look at the letters from the French link school and draft a response letter.

PE & Games

During Games lessons, the children will develop teamwork and communication skills in the context of a range of team games, including tag rugby and netball. During the indoor sessions on a Wednesday morning, the children will develop a dance sequence and in the outdoor sessions the children will be cycling.

Music

In the first half term, our topic is Elgars' Enigma Variations. Pupils will listen in detail to Elgar's Enigma Variations and explore how music can create an impression. They will learn to play famous musical motifs on the keyboard and choose other instruments in their own composition.

Homework

Reading

We ask that children read each day for 10 minutes. Each child in Year 4 will be issued with a level appropriate reading book provided by school. It really helps their progress if they are heard regularly at home and we would be grateful if you could initial their Personal Log each time you hear them. Children who read regularly at home will be given a raffle ticket and each half term one lucky winner will be selected at random from the raffle tickets to win a book from Jeff (our book vending machine). Children also have the opportunity to win an Amazon Fire Kindle at the end of the year – they can do this by entering themselves into the draw by completing a book review (available at school) when they finish a book. Finally, children also have a reading challenge in their log-books – completing this will mean they are entered into a competition to win Amazon vouchers!

Maths

We ask that children use TTRockstars to help them improve on their timestables this term.

Spellings

The children will continue to receive a new spelling list once a week on a **Thursday. Please remind children to bring in their personal logs every day to school so that spellings practise can also occur in school.**

We encourage the children to use Spelling Shed to help them improve and practise their spellings

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

Things to Remember

- **Spellings** - children will receive new spellings on a Thursday which will be stuck in their log books.
- We ask that they access Spelling Shed 2 times a week minimum.
- **Reading** - We ask that children are listened to while they read for about 10 minutes a day. They have an appropriate reading book given to them by the school but they could also choose to read a book from home or the library. Please support them by recording their reading in their organisers.
- Children who read at least 5 times per week are awarded a raffle ticket.
- **Maths** - The children will be focusing on their times tables with TTRockstars. We ask that they access this 2 times a week minimum
- **Homework** - Children are encouraged to complete their homework because it reinforces the learning which takes place in school and is another opportunity to practise. Those who complete their homework regularly and to a good standard can earn rewards.

- Please remember to pack a healthy snack for your child to eat at playtime along with a refillable water bottle.

- PE Kit – Children are required to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days (Wednesday and Thursday). Please ensure that all PE kit is labelled with your child's name (this helps us to ensure it gets back to them when it is lost).

- Uniform –Please ensure that all uniform is labelled with your child's name (this helps us to ensure it gets back to them when it is lost).

Useful websites

- www.linguafun.eu—for French
- www.ttrockstars.com—for times tables
- www.edshed.com—for spelling practice through games

Your children have logins for all of these websites. If you don't have them, we can remind you of the details. All of the children's login details should be stuck into their log books as a first point of reference.

Did you know we now have a Facebook page?

We have created a Facebook page which will show any news and events across the Viaduct Federation of schools, it is titled 'The Bushfield and Wyvern Viaduct Federation of Schools'. Like us and keep up to date with any fun school events and news!



Attendance Matters



Viaduct Federation of Schools



ATTENDANCE REVIEW

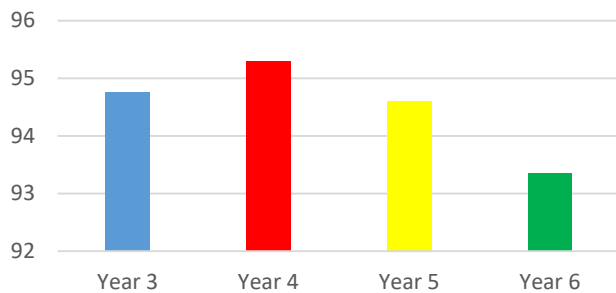
AUTUMN TERM

72 possible days

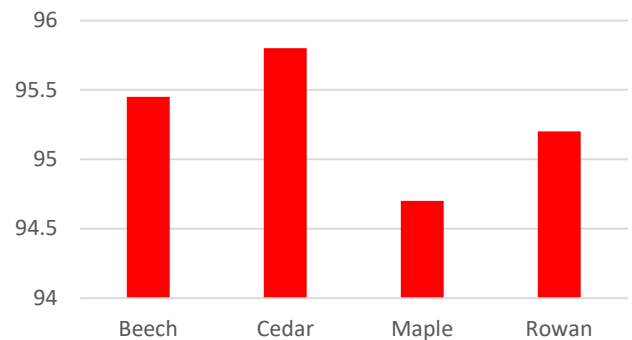
As you know, pupil attendance is very important and is a focus on schools from both the government and the local authority. In terms of our drive to raise awareness, please see below our classes' average attendance.

As you can see, we are so close to reaching the national expectation (96%). Thank you for all of your efforts to get the children in everyday does make a different. Please can we encourage you to keep it up for the spring term.

Whole school attendance by year group



Year 4 attendance by class



100% attendance

72 days of learning



97% attendance

70 days of learning



EXCELLENT

High attendance leads to high achievement and a greater chance of success – Well done!

95% attendance

68 days of learning



90% attendance

65 days of learning



CONCERNING

Poor attendance makes it harder to progress and limits opportunities for success

85% attendance

61 days of learning



80% attendance

58 days of learning



SERIOUS CONCERN

Very poor attendance seriously impacts on education and reduces life chances!

Be the best you can be.