



# Year 4 Spring



## 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. This term has obviously taken a different turn than one we had planned for, but the children have adapted to their online learning well and we are proud of their efforts. We are really excited to explore our new topics; beginning with 'The Mayans' and will be followed by a local Victorian based study of Wolverton. We look forward to seeing you soon,

The Year 4 Team

### English

During the first half term, we will be developing our narrative skills by writing in the role of a character and developing effective descriptive narrative linked to Roald Dahl's story 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' We will also create a persuasive text aimed at persuading the reader to visit a 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.

After half term, we will be linking our English work closely to our 'Victorians' topic. We will be using the text 'The Railway Children' as a stimulus for our fiction writing including letters as recount text and a suspense narrative. Throughout this term, we will continue to develop our grammatical knowledge with focussed lessons linked to key grammatical terminology, including apostrophes, pronouns and determiners as well as reading chocolate themed texts to develop inference skills, supporting ideas using evidence from the text and identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning. We will also be continuing to develop the legibility, consistency and quality of our handwriting through focussed lessons.

### 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. In the second half term, we will be focussing on their formal methods for multiplication and division, area and perimeter and ending with statistics. The children will also continue to practise their written methods with a dedicated calculation lesson each week. Throughout this term, the children will still be given regular opportunities to practise and embed their times tables facts and we encourage the children to practise regularly at home to help earn their Times Tables certificates.

### Science

During the 1st half term we will be focusing on the topic of 'Living things and their habitats'. During this topic the children will be looking at the classification of different creatures and investigating why they live in particular locations. After half term, we will consolidate our understanding of the topic by designing and creating our own electrical circuit loop game! They will extend their knowledge to think about the impact of the introduction of electricity to our own lives and the use of this within our modern world today.

### Computing

We will begin this term by learning to design, write and debug programs. We will develop our skills of sequencing and working with variables and various forms of inputs and outputs. After 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.

### RE

After half term, we will build on our learning of Hinduism in the Autumn Term. We will develop our understanding of the importance of worship, daily rituals, pilgrimage and how Hindus use the teachings of parables to influence daily life.

### History and Geography

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. After half term, using the backdrop of the local area of Wolverton, we will learn about some key events in Victorian times and the impact of these changes. We will explore what it was like to live and work in Victorian Wolverton by using a range of historical sources. Our knowledge will be extended through a visit to Milton Keynes Museum as well as a guided tour of Wolverton.

### 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 their own stelae against success criteria.

### Design Technology (DT)

Linking to our work in History, after half term, we will explore the different bridges built during the Victorian era. We will learn how to create and build a truss bridge against a success criteria and the effectiveness of this design will then be evaluated. Also linking to our History learning, we will learn about the nutritional impact of traditional Victorian dishes and plan, design and create a range of Victorian tea party items.

### 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. After half term, we will use our knowledge of verbs and adverbs to construct a paragraph and booklet about our own preferences and strengths.

### PE & Games

On a Monday afternoon, during Games lessons, we will develop team work and communication skills in the context of a range of team games, including football and hockey. During the indoor PE sessions on a Wednesday morning, we will develop a dance sequence and in the outdoor sessions will be taking part in athletic activities.

### Homework

#### Reading

We ask that children read each day for 15 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.

#### 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 **Tuesday**. The children will be tested on their spellings in their sets on the **following Tuesday. Please remind children to bring in their personal logs every day to school so that spellings practise can also occur in school.**