



**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 their new topics, beginning with 'The Mayans' and will be followed by a local Victorian based study of Wolverton.

**Subject Overviews**

**English**

During the first half term, we will be developing our skills of persuasion by creating a persuasive text aimed at persuading 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.

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 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. 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 within Scratch. 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**

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.

## **Geography**

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.

## 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. After half term, we focus on In the Hall of Mountain King- Grieg. Pupils will explore how music can tell a story, learn to read simple notation and play famous musical motifs. They will then compose their own music inspired by Grieg's work.

## 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.***

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

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

**Year group info-pictures below from left to right:**

- **Head of Year 4** – Mrs A Edwards
- **Teachers:** Mr M Batchelor, Miss C Hobson, Mr R Brown
- **Teaching Assistants:** Mrs Z Adil, Mrs T Mawson, Mrs J Adamson, Mrs D Preston, Mrs A Sharma, Mrs C Downs



**Important Information**

- **Spellings** - children will receive new spellings on a Tuesday which will be stuck in their log books. They will be tested the following Tuesday.
- 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 merits.
- **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.
- **Snack**
- Please remember to pack a healthy snack for your child to eat at playtime along with a refillable water bottle.

**Useful websites**

- [www.linguafun.eu](http://www.linguafun.eu)—for French
- [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)
- Login: Y3 Fir Class (if your child is in one of the other classes, use that class name instead)
- Password: reading
- [www.ttrackstars.com](http://www.ttrackstars.com)—for times tables
- [www.edshed.com](http://www.edshed.com)—for spelling practice through games

Your children have logins for both of these websites. If you don't have them, we can remind you of the details.

**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!

