

Welcome To Year 4

Welcome to Year 4 where all are welcome and we strive to do our best in a caring, ambitious atmosphere.

The core Year 4 Team includes Miss McNall, Mr Renwick and Miss Jeavons but children may also spend time with Mrs Natton our Learning Support Teacher or Miss Baharie and Mrs Mather who provide weekly cover in class.

Spring— This term we will spend a lot of time focusing on our times tables ahead of the Year 4 Times Table Test. Our topics include Our class reads this term are: **The Brilliant World of Tom Gates by Liz Pichon, The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Ralph and Anisha, Accidental Detective by Sarena Patel.**

Year 4 Key Information

The school day begins with a soft start from 8.40am, with registration at 8.50am. Year 4 finish at 3.25pm.

P.E. PE will be on a Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday will be indoor and Thursday outdoor. Please can children come into school wearing the correct PE kit of a white t-shirt and black shorts on indoor days and suitable warmer P.E. kit on outdoor days.

On Tuesday 28th March, all Year 4 children will be taking part in the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival at the Sage Gateshead. This is a brilliant opportunity for all children to showcase the performance they have worked on in their PE lessons. Keep an eye out for information regarding spectator tickets!

Home Learning

Reading Pupils will bring a school reading book home and a reading for pleasure book every day. Please can this be returned daily as the book is used daily in school as part of their guided reading session. Remember to sign your child's reading diary if they have read three times at home so we can reward this with a raffle ticket into the book draw!

Maths and English This homework will be set in their CGP workbook on a Friday to be returned to school on a Thursday.

TTRS Each pupil has their own TTRS log in. They will get most benefit from at least 3, 10 –20 minute sessions a week.

Spelling Spellings will be sent home every Friday.

Oakfield Schools Federation

Guiding the futures of our children



Year 4 Newsletter

Spring 2023

How can you help at home?

We would appreciate if you could support your child with their weekly homework tasks and daily reading.

We strongly encourage children to access Times Tables Rockstars at least 3 times a week to build their fluency.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to catch us on the yard or leave a message via the school office!

As mathematicians, we will develop our number fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills. We follow a mastery approach using varied fluency and a range of concrete apparatus, pictorial representations and abstract number work.

This term we will begin by deepening our knowledge of the 3, 6 and 9 times tables before moving onto the 7 times tables.

Children will recognise patterns within multiplication tables and will use their knowledge to solve problems in various contexts. They will manipulate multiplicative relationships and explore the inverse.

We will then move on to geometry where children will be introduced to coordinates and will learn to accurately draw 2D shapes onto a quadrant.

All of the key mathematical concepts will be revisited regularly in our daily Snappy Maths sessions.

In Literacy, we will develop our understanding of spoken and written English using the Write Stuff (Jane Considine) approach. <https://www.janeconsidine.com/> Taking our inspiration from quality texts and advice from published authors, we will delve into genres including:

Narrative— Inspired by *The Whale* by Ethan and Vita Murrow

Non fiction, balanced arguments— ‘Feeding Animals in National Parks’

Narrative - Inspired by *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes

In our writing lessons, children will learn how to make their writing effective for purpose. They will use ‘thesaurus thinking’ to make appropriate and adventurous vocabulary choices. They will use a range of punctuation correctly including inverted commas for speech and apostrophes for contracted forms and for possession. Children will explore different sentence types such as short, dramatic sentences to build tension and longer sentences including fronted adverbials and relative clauses.

Our guided reading sessions follow *Hooked on Books* where children will have opportunities to discuss a range of texts and develop their vocabulary.

In **computing**, children will first explore coding. They will design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals. Children will learn to use sequence, selection and repetition in programs and work with different varieties of inputs and outputs. Children will use their logical reasoning skills to explain how algorithms work.

We will also spend some time learning about animation. Children will use a variety of software, including the internet, to design and create content for a specific purpose. They will act on feedback to make improvements to their digital content.

In class assemblies, children will continue to develop their awareness of internet safety, with a particular focus around they manage information online.

As scientists, we will dive into the topic of ‘Animals including Humans’. Here we will look closely at the digestive system, teeth (including the different types and their functions) and food chains. Children will learn about the work of some significant scientists such as William Beaumont and Pierre Fauchard.

Our next topic will be ‘States of Matter’. Children will enjoy conducting investigations to learn more about solids, liquids and gases. They will learn about changes of state and the water cycle.

Throughout our science lessons, children will build on their scientific vocabulary and will develop experimental skills, questioning skills, their understanding of how data can be recorded and presented and how they analyse data. Children will also become more familiar with using a range of scientific equipment.

As **Artists**, we will explore the way different materials can be shaped and joined. We will refer to the work of Barbara Hepworth, Sokari Douglas Camp and El Anatsui.

Our study of a **Modern Foreign Language** takes us to China. Together with our native speaking Chinese teacher Xiao Lu, we will revisit numbers and begin to say the numbers up to 31 to prepare for learning about Chinese dates. We will also learn about Chinese families and how to describe our families in Chinese. We will also learn about countries and how to talk about where we are from.

As Geographers, we will be looking at the distribution of the world's biomes through maps, and videos. We will also look at the impact climate change is having on the biomes of the world. We will then be mapping food imports from around the world and the impact our diet has on people and global warming. We will also be examining the realities of Fair Trade, focusing on Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa and the importance of cocoa beans. We will also be exploring where the food for our children's school dinners comes from and the argument of 'local versus global' when considering the food industry.

Within **R.E.** we will be exploring Christianity in depth. We will learn about where the religion of Christianity came from, the main Christian beliefs, significant places for Christians, important Christian festivals, holy books and Christian symbols and their meanings.

As **Global Citizens** we will think about healthy relationships. We will discuss family relationships, our similarities and differences and we will celebrate diversity. We will then begin to learn about money and how to manage a budget.

We will continue to build on our understanding of online safety through class assemblies.

Within P.E., we will be able to explain the importance of warming up and cooling down before and after exercise. We will understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle and how exercise fits into this. In our outdoor PE lessons we will be developing the skills required to play dodgeball. This will include jumping, dodging, throwing and ducking. In our indoor PE lessons we will be learning a dance routine in preparation for our performance at the Sage Gateshead in March. Children will learn to express themselves through dance to share a message or story.

In **DT** this term we will be revisiting our scientific knowledge of circuits to design and make a more complex household appliance that can be used as a light and to signal with.

As Historians, we will be asking ourselves the question, how different were beliefs in Ancient Egypt? We will delve into learning about who the Ancient Egyptians were, what they believed in and how historians find out about them.

When studying the beliefs of Ancient Egyptian people we will be focussing on their thoughts on the after-life. As part of beliefs, children should explore and understand the importance of mummification to the Ancient Egyptians. We hope that a planned visit to Durham University's Oriental Museum, where there are a wealth of Ancient Egyptian artefacts on display, will help to bring the past to life and give our historians an insight into the daily lives of this most-fascinating of ancient cultures.

Staccato or legato, forte or piano, major or minor? - This term is all about musical contrasts. Beginning with songs and activities which explore different instrumental timbres, the children will learn how instruments can be grouped and classified in different ways. They will listen to music such as *The Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra* by Benjamin Britten.