



Year 4
In Autumn 1 our topic is:
What was life like in Ancient Egypt?
The information below shows the areas of the curriculum we are covering this half term.



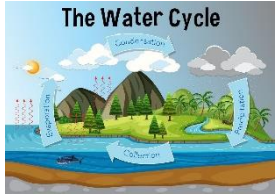
Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible Activities to be done at home
English	<p>During our English lessons this half term, we will be reading 'How to Train your Dragon'. We will be writing an information text all about a dragon we have created as well as a persuasive argument. In addition, we will also be reading 'The Tunnel'. This is a very intriguing book, which we know the children will love exploring. We are looking forward to writing a newspaper report about the events in this book.</p> <p>As well as this, we will be learning about a range of punctuation, spelling and grammar techniques to apply to our writing. We will also read a range of texts (including non-fiction and poetry), developing our skills to retrieve information and infer what characters are both thinking and feeling.</p>	<p>Children are given time to read in school and are expected to read at home also. We would like children to read regularly at home. Exposure to a range of texts including magazines, comics, non-fiction texts, poetry etc. will help to develop their fluency and understanding. Please support your child at home by encouraging them to read and sharing their books with them.</p> <p>You could even watch the film 'How to Train Your Dragon' (which is based on the book) and ask your children how it is similar and different to what we have read in school.</p>
Maths	<p>In Maths this half term, we will be focusing on place value; including negative numbers, addition and subtraction of 4 digit numbers and using the inverse to check our answers. We will also be learning how to compare and classify shapes and read, write and convert time. Children will be taking part in a practise timetables test as well as a weekly arithmetic test.</p>	<p>By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of the times tables and related division facts. There are many ways to practise these such as online games, songs, writing them down and verbally rehearsing them. Children are encouraged to use Times Tables Rockstars as much as possible to help improve their times tables.</p>
Science Physics	<p>In Science this half term, our topic is Sound. We will learn about the way sound travels, how it is made, the effect volume has on the vibration and what 'pitch' is and how and why it changes. Children will also carry out a string telephone experiment to find out which material makes sound travel better, and then use rice on a drum to investigate vibration and volume. We will be taking Science outside during this topic, testing and finding out how far different sounds travel.</p>	<p>Discuss different sounds when out and about. Are there any different sounds, which are at different pitches? Are there any sounds, which vibrations have affected? Children can create their own telephone using different materials.</p>
History	<p>This half term we will be learning about the Ancient Egyptians. In school, we will develop our understanding of who the Egyptians were and how they lived their lives. We will also be comparing life as an Egyptian to life in modern England to explore the similarities and differences.</p>	<p>The children could research an Egyptian meal and make it for the family. They could also create a 3D structure of a pyramid to support the Egyptian display in the classroom.</p>



Religious Education	We will be looking at the way different religions show care for people, with particular reference to Christianity and Judaism. We will find out how a local church shows care for people, and look in depth at a charity or Christian organisation and what they do. This will be followed by looking at how care is shown through Judaism.	You could discuss what other religions may do to show care for others. Does anybody at home have any involvement in or supports a charity?
Computing	Children will learn what debugging is and use what they learn to debug algorithms. Over the weeks they will use and investigate the different features of Sprite, including effects and scoring systems, which they will use to make a quiz of their own.	Encourage the children to look at different types of quizzes. Are there any effects and colours that look good which the children may want to use in their own work?
Physical Education	Our activity in PE for the half term is Tag Rugby. Children will learn the rules of TAG Rugby, how to pass and tag with the correct technique as well as developing their skills in order to successfully work as part of a team.	Please ensure your child bring their PE kit into school. This can be brought into school at the beginning of the term and left or brought in each week ready for a Thursday, as this is our PE day. This should be black shorts and a plain white T-shirt, with appropriate clothing for the outside PE in the weather on the day. Appropriate footwear should also be worn. We will contact you if your child does not bring a PE kit to school.
Music	The children will be learning how to compare and contrast structures in music. We will also learn a verse and chorus of a song to perform in groups, as well as creating layers of music using percussion instruments.	Your child could research an Egyptian music composer and create a fact file about their type of music. They could also compare an artist from the past with someone from the present.
Art	In Art we will be creating sculptures around the theme of exotic birds and eggs. We will explore the work of artists such as Cathy Miles before then designing and creating our own sculptures. We will use a range of materials such as foam board and Modroc. We can't wait to see the amazing sculptures the children produce.	Creating a sculpture using any materials that are available to you such as newspaper or straws. Can your child draw the birds in your garden or local park?
French	The children will develop their French vocabulary in the topic. They will learn how to say where they live, to count in 10s and to 100, my address is and in my town...	Children can investigate different places in France and how they compare to Darlington or other places in England.
PSHE	The children will be learning about what it means to be part of a team and all of the excitement and changes starting a new class brings.	Children can talk to adults about what they have been learning and discuss how those around them are part of their team and how people can help each other.



Year 4
In Autumn 2 our topic is:
Why is Water so Important?



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible Activities to be done at home
English	During our English lessons this half term, we will be basing our reading and writing on texts linked with our past topic of Ancient Egypt, beginning with a book we are sure the children will enjoy, called 'There's a Pharaoh in my Bath' written by Jeremy Strong. We will also be using a digital literacy story about Tadeo Jones, an Egyptian explorer. These fabulous texts will inspire the children's narrative writing and also be a great stimulus for a factual based report on the pyramids of Egypt.	Children are given time to read in school and are expected to also read at home. Exposure to a range of texts including magazines, comics, non-fiction texts, poetry etc. will help to develop their fluency and understanding. Please support your child at home by reading together as often as you can to promote a love of reading and learning.
Maths	In maths this half term, we will be building on our number skills by learning how to multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using formal written methods. We will be learning how to measure accurately using a range of maths equipment as well as taking our maths learning outside during our Outdoor Classroom Day as part of our work on measuring trees. Towards the end of the half term, we will be looking at bar charts and line graphs and understanding how to read the data.	By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of the times tables and related division facts. There are many ways to practise these such as online games, songs, writing them down and verbally rehearsing them. Children are encouraged to use Times Tables Rockstars as much as possible to help improve their times tables as this is set out like the times table test.
Science	In our science topic, we will be finding out about States of Matter by learning about the differences between solids, liquids and gases. We will be classifying objects and identifying their properties as well as exploring in-depth how water changes state. Through an experiment on finding the ideal conditions for drying washing, we will learn about evaporation and the role of this process in the water cycle.	Encourage your child to discuss their learning about states of matter at home and see if they can identify examples of different solids, liquids and gases. Perhaps they could explore the ingredients you use in cooking that are solids or liquids or discuss what is happening to the water in the kettle when steam can be seen coming from it.
Geography	In our topic based on the importance of water around the world we will be finding the answers to the following questions: What does water look like? What is the water cycle? How are rain clouds made? How do we clean water? Why does the land flood? What are the effects of water pollution? <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	Find out about the main seas and oceans of the world using Google. Can your child name them and describe where they are? Children could think about how important water is to us and how it affects our lives? How often and how much do we use? What might happen if we did not have enough water? Are there any ways in which we can help save water in and around the home?

Religious Education	We will be looking at the question, 'What do Hindus believe God is like?' We will be studying the religion of Hinduism and research many different Hindu gods and their feelings towards these gods.	You could research the religion of Hinduism at home and create a fact file around one of the gods.
Computing	We will be continuing our learning on debugging and how to apply our knowledge to debug paper algorithms. We will use and investigate the different features of Scratch, including effects and scoring systems, which children will then use to make a quiz of their own on the topics covered in geography.	Look at different types of quizzes. Are there any effects and colours that look good which the children may want to use in the classroom when they create their own quiz using their newly acquired computing skills?
Physical Education	Year 4 are developing our skills in gymnastics. This will include working on bridges, creating sequences and using apparatus. We will then be developing our athletics skills during sports hall athletics, including working on throwing, running and jumping.	Please ensure your child has appropriate P.E. kit in school. Whilst P.E. will generally be on a Wednesday, there may be other sessions as well. Appropriate footwear is also required. Children could practise their running, jumping and throwing techniques at home. 
PSHE	The children will learn about 'Digital Wellbeing' and how they can stay safe and be responsible online or when using technology. They will think about how they can get along with other people and to appreciate everyone around them.	Talk to your child about being safe with technology. Talk to your child about their friends at school and how they can be a good friend.
Music	This half term the children will complete their learning on an ABBA based unit of musical activities. They will be learning to sing, play, improvise and compose within the well-known song 'Mamma Mia'. The children will also have the opportunity to listen to and appraise other ABBA hits. As well as this, we will be using a glockenspiel to help understand and develop our knowledge of rhythm.	Relive the ABBA hits with your child; listen to their hit songs together and decide upon family favourites, giving reasons for your preferences. 
DT	In DT, we will be creating a 'Moving Monster' using the concept of pneumatics. This will involve researching what pneumatics are and coming up with concepts in which we can use pneumatics to create moving parts.	Your child could complete additional research around the concept of pneumatics in preparation of our DT project.
French	Our topic this half term is 'I am able'. In this unit of study the children will learn to develop their conversational skills through some new learning and vocabulary based around action verbs, such as cooking or riding a bike.	Your child could practise speaking French at home and teach other people their new learning. They could create their own French dictionary to explain the meaning of new words learned.

Year Group: Year 4

Term: Autumn 2 2023

Class Teachers: Mr Harker and Mr Beadle