



Spring Term – Curriculum Newsletter

Year 4

English

Speaking and Listening

There are many opportunities interwoven in the Year 4 curriculum to develop speaking and listening skills. During this term the children will be particularly focusing on developing their skills of articulating and justifying their opinions and gaining, maintaining and monitoring the interest of listeners.

Reading

During the Spring term the children will be focusing on two main texts How to Train Your Dragon and Desirable. They will be aiming to secure their decoding skills to allow them to more effectively decode unfamiliar words. They will be identifying and discussion words and phrases that capture the imagination. They will be practising retrieving and recording information, making inferences and justifying predictions and identifying and summarising main ideas from texts.

Writing

This term the children will develop their skills of creating stories in historical settings, recounts, stories from other cultures, persuasive adverts and fantasy stories in imaginary worlds. The children will also be carrying out personal projects within their writing where the children will take ownership of their own learning and create a piece of writing of their own choosing. Using these genres of writing the children will also learn to correctly spell common homophones, Increase regularity of handwriting, organise writing into paragraphs, use simple organisational devices, proof-read for spelling & punctuation errors, use wider range of conjunctions and select pronouns and nouns for clarity.

Maths

During the Spring term children will be focussing on 7 times tables and their patterns, understanding and manipulating multiplicative relationships and coordinates.

The children will continue to develop their recall of times tables facts up to the 12x tables in preparation for their national multiplication test in the summer. Children will be encouraged to use TT Rockstars to support them with this.

Our topic for the Spring term is: Island Life

During this topic we will be focusing on the following subjects:

Geography, DT, Art and Music.

We will be learning about the following things:

This amazing topic will begin with the children taking an imaginary trip to Hawaii for the day. During this experience they will get a taste for island life, they will consider what it takes to survive on and escape from a desert island, they will examine aerial photography of islands and will design their own island with its own flag. The children will also find out about music from the island of Hawaii.

The children's learning journey will then progress to the subject of Geography, in this subject area the children will be researching a variety of different islands and will develop their understanding of the physical processes that lead to their formation. The children will be able to describe the physical and human characteristics of a variety of islands and they will also learn about why people choose to live in these places and how their presence has impacted the locations. Children will partake in a debate to present their ideas on why it is a good idea to live next to a volcano, and why it is not a good idea to live next to a volcano.

The children will then move onto the subject of DT and they will be involved in creating education resources – a model volcano to teach other children about how volcanoes work. The children will complete research and product analysis, they will create designs and develop step by step plans for making their volcano. They will take responsibility for selecting materials and equipment and will work in groups to complete their models. They will then carefully consider how they could improve their work through the evaluation process.

The learning journey will conclude with the children preparing presentations, documentaries, dramatic performances or interviews to exemplify what they now know, these will be present to parents at the end of the term.

In this topic we will be using the following vocabulary. If possible, please talk about these words at home to ensure your child has a good understanding of their meaning: Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Europe, Russia, North and South America, key, grid, island, physical and human features, natural disasters, tectonic plates, earthquake, tsunami.

Science

Our topic for the Spring term is, Living Things and the Habitats. Children will look at different types of animals and explore how they can be grouped and classified. Children will develop their skills of recording, classifying and presenting data.

PSHE/Peacemakers

In PSHE/Peacemakers, the children will develop their understanding of what positive relationships look like and how to maintain them. The children will also look at the benefits of maintaining a healthy life style, e.g. regular exercise, a healthy diet and a healthy mindset.

PE

During the Spring term, children will participate in gymnastics and cricket. In gymnastics, the children will develop their ability to balance, roll and climb. They will also combine movements, actions and balances, either individually or as part of a group, to create a fluid routine. In cricket, the children will develop their throwing, catching and batting technique.

Important information: PE is now on a **Tuesday**.

Children will need to come to school in their PE kits on a **Tuesday**.

Children's PE kits should consist of:

- a white t-shirt
- navy blue/black joggers/shorts
- black trainers/pumps
- school jumper/cardigan

Please ensure that children come to school wearing the correct clothing.

RE

In RE, the children will explore the importance of listening to one another, the significance of forgiveness and how we can display this in our daily lives and develop their understanding of empathy.

French

In French, the children will continue to develop their understanding of French words and phrases through their topics, 'Festivals' and 'Where are you going?'.
The children will be expected to apply their learning by answering simple questions in French and presenting their learning in presentations to their classmates.

Homework

Children will receive their homework grid for their new topic. Children can choose the activities that they would like to complete. Children are to return their homework on Wednesday so that Miss Hopkins and Mrs Gray can see some of the fantastic work children have been completed outside of school. It will then be returned on a Friday, with a raffle ticket, for children to complete their next piece of work. Both Miss Hopkins and Mrs Gray were very impressed with the homework that was brought into school in the Autumn term!

Remember to use both TT Rockstars regularly.

If you are having difficulty with accessing the online platforms please let Miss Hopkins and Mrs Gray know by emailing the year 4 email account at: Year4@paganelschool.net and they will resolve the issue.

Key Dates

Monday's – Visit from RSPCA

05.01.23 – Birmingham canal and river trust visit to school