



Birchwood Avenue Primary School

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A very warm welcome back to all our families in year 4. We are really looking forward to having an exciting Summer Term. Our Learning Superpower focus this half term will be 'Curiosity' where children will be encouraged to ask questions, which in turn helps them to better understand the world they live in. We feel as a school that our values underpin our learning behaviour, and this is reflected in our work.

PE



In the Summer Term, year 4 will take part in Golf, Hockey and athletics activities, as we begin to practice for Sport's Day. In the second half-term, they will also be taking part in lessons that focus on multi-skills. This term, year 4 will have their PE lessons on Wednesday and Friday, where they will need to bring their correct PE kit. In the lead up to Sport's Day, children will have the opportunity to earn extra points for their house by wearing the correct PE kit on the correct day. Trainers will be needed for each day of the week, as we will be taking part in the 'Daily Mile'.

English

Throughout the term, we will use a wide range of high-quality texts to inspire writing and continue to build a rich and varied vocabulary that children will be encouraged to use in their writing. We will begin by looking at an explanation text, based on a short film, and then moving on to stories with a theme and discussion-based writing. Children will continue to develop their ability to structure sentences using a variety of sentence types, whilst incorporating learned language techniques.

Reading

Please continue to support your child, to encourage a love of reading. They will continue to bring a reading book home linked to their current reading level. We expect them to read for at least 15 minutes each evening, discuss what has happened, and talk about the characters and setting, as this will deepen their understanding of the text. A good grasp of reading will help your child access all areas of the curriculum and stand them in good stead to make progress in their learning. In addition to this, we will also be encouraging children to borrow a book of their choice from the library.



Maths

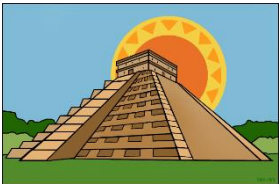
Children will continue to develop their multiplication skills this term in order to be ready for the multiplication check. They will also develop both their arithmetic and problem-solving skills through the topics of money, time, statistics, fractions and geometry. Our focus for this year is for the children to master their knowledge of all their times tables. Families can support this learning at home by logging onto the Times Tables Rock Stars website: <https://trockstars.com>

Science



For the first half of the Summer Term, pupils will dive into the world of sound through enquiry and investigation. They will learn what sound is and how it is created through investigating different instruments, equipment and objects. They will learn about vibration particles and how they travel, before looking at the inner ear and how it receives and interprets sound vibrations. Children will also investigate volume and pitch to understand how the vibrations change. Next half term, the enquiry continues into electricity. Pupils will learn what electricity is and identify the types of appliances that use it; including both mains and battery power sources. They will explore electrical equipment to understand the components needed in a complete circuit and learn how to change the circuit to meet certain rules or requirements; this will include changing the brightness of a bulb, creating and using switches. Finally, children will investigate materials to learn about conductors and insulators of electricity.

History



This half term, pupils will be learning all about the Ancient Mayan civilisation. To start, they will focus on when and where the Mayan civilisation existed, and the modern-day countries that span the Ancient Mayan lands. They will explore the location and conditions of different Mayan regions and cities. After this, children will learn how artefacts help us understand how the Mayan civilisation lived their lives – their social hierarchy, appearance and clothing, and the types of labour and roles that existed. Pupils will then explore Mayan priests and religion, looking at the gods and goddesses, ceremonies and festivals, and Mayan myths.

Geography



Next half term, children will be studying Rivers and what they are used for around the world. They will look at the location and countries in which rivers travel and how the use of the river can impact the local lives.

PSHE

For the first half of this term, children will be discussing relationships. They will discuss how to maintain healthy relationships, solve problems and helping others. The focus for the second half of term will be 'Changing Me'. We will look at understanding and respecting changes in ourselves and others.

Art and DT

During the first half-term, we will be developing our Art and Design skills in the 'fabric of nature' unit. These lessons will explore repeating patterns, techniques for creating patterns and the different purposes of art. In the second half-term, we will be moving on to Design and Technology. We will be exploring how electrical items work, analysing and evaluating electrical products and then designing and creating a torch as part of our 'Electrical systems' unit.

RE

Using historical skills and knowledge, the children will explore how the Christian Bible that exists today was developed. They will look at the different types of writing within the Bible and when it was written. We will also find out how some Christians use their Bibles and present their ideas as marketers of the Bible. In the second half of the term, expanding on their understanding of the importance and place of scripture, the children will find out about the different languages scriptures are used in and what this reveals about different beliefs. They will also try their hands at Arabic calligraphy and retell the story of different diasporas using a map.

Computing

For the first half term, the children will learn how to create media and will explore how to edit and adapt photos. They will also have an internet safety focus of health, well-being and lifestyle, where they will be able to explain how technology can become a distraction in both a positive and a negative way. The second half term will focus on using the computer to create games with a further focus on privacy and security when online.



Homework

Please continue to read with your child daily to support their reading fluency and understanding. This year in maths, there is a focus on multiplication and division, and children are expected to practise their times tables regularly at home. Families can support this learning at home by logging onto the Times Tables Rock Stars website: <https://trockstars.com>. Other homework will be given on Fridays. By the end of this term, all children should be able to independently spell the year 3 and 4 statutory words. Please encourage your child to complete any homework and to return it by Friday, to enhance the learning in the classroom.

Thank you for your support, and if you have any questions or queries please get in touch.

Mr Connolly and the Year 4 team.