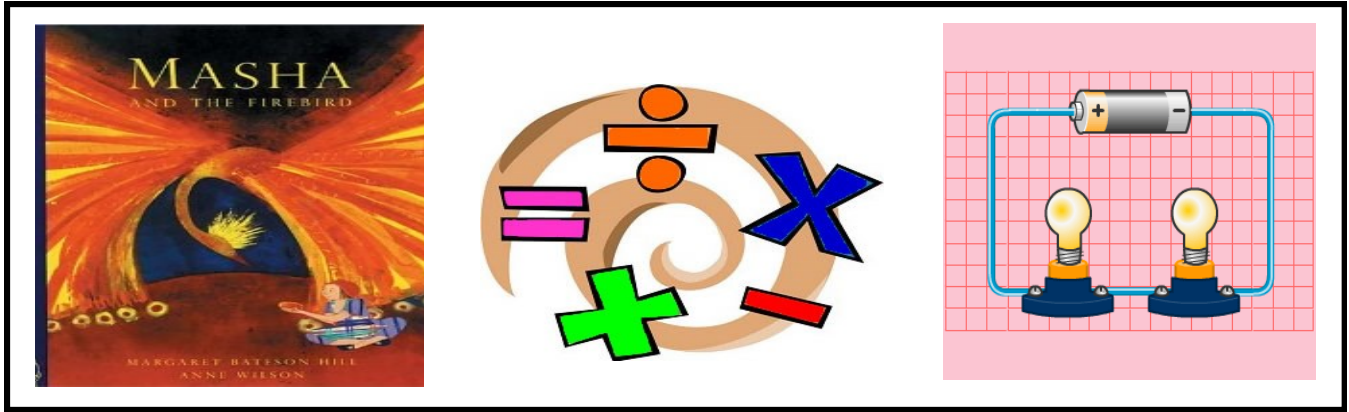


TERMtalk

CURRICULUM NEWS FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Issued termly Unit 3 and 4 Year 4 January –April 2017



English

During this term the children will be studying stories from other cultures. We will be using the book 'Masha and the Firebird' to identify common features and themes in a text. They will be identifying features of a story and producing their own stories based on this book. In addition the children will be learning how to choose interesting vocabulary and manipulate sentences in order to write effective stories.

In the second half of term, the children will also be introduced to explanation texts. Once again they will be identifying the features and be asked to produce their own explanation text about the worlds most dangerous animals.

In addition, the children will be learning about the grammatical terms pronouns, prepositions, adverbial phrases and how to set out dialogue correctly.

In spellings they will be learning how words are formed using prefixes and suffixes.

Please read with your child every night, discuss the story and explain any unfamiliar words. This will help improve your child's comprehension skills.

Maths

This term, children will be continuing to use appropriate **written methods** for **addition, subtraction, multiplication** and **division**. They will **solve word** problems involving all four operations and apply written methods learnt. **Please make sure that your child knows their 2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9 times tables by heart as this will help them with multiplication and division work as well as how to find fractions of numbers.**

In addition, Year 4 will consolidate their **Geometry skills with work** on the properties of 2D shapes; they will sort, compare and classify shapes (including regular/ irregular, acute/ obtuse/right angle) and identify lines of symmetry.

In **Measures**, the children will investigate how to find the Perimeter and Area of rectilinear shapes.

In the second half of the spring term, the children will continue to recognise fractions in the context of numbers, measurements, shapes and of quantities; use the terms numerator and denominator; write fractions using notation and words; consolidate finding unit fractions of numbers and relate fractions to decimal place value. They will practice **measurements** in a practical context as well as leaning how to convert from one unit of measure to another.

Science

This term children will be studying the topic "**States of matter**". They will be finding out about the properties of the three different states of matter: **solids, liquids & gases**. In addition the children will plan investigations, **make predictions**, set up enquiries about how solids, gases and liquids **change from one state to another**. They will also learn how to use **thermometers**.

Finally the class will investigate the Water Cycle.

Our second topic is "**Electricity**". The children will **revise** what they know about it and learn the health and safety rules needed when using it. We will look at how we use electricity and what life would be like without it e.g. how many **appliances** are there at home or around the school that rely on electricity?

The children will make a **light bulb** work using a **battery** and **wire**. We will investigate the structure of electrical **circuits** and **test** them, by changing the number of bulbs or the length of the wires. These will be recorded through the use of symbols to represent the items in the circuit.

OUR FOUNDATION



Geography

This term the children will be finding out about the continent of Europe. They will begin by ensuring they know the names of all the continents and oceans and will revise the countries within the UK.

They will use their map reading skills to study political and physical maps of Europe, and find out about important mountain ranges, rivers and seas. They will learn the names of countries which border each other and learn the names of capital cities within those countries.

After half term, children will be finding out how people live in specific European countries. They will contrast the life of children in who live in Paris with those who live in rural areas of France like Provence and the Alps. They will also be studying other European countries such as Russia.

Computing

In Computing the children will be introduced to excel, using their computer skills in conjunction with work in maths and science. They will create tables and graphs, add labels and format titles where appropriate. They will also learn how to create lists, order and organise data.

After the half term break we will be looking at developing our programming and coding skills. The children will be using the 'scratch' programme, which is free to download to use at home, to produce algorithms through a drag and drop format, allowing them to create their own computer games.

PE

This term, all pupils will be having **swimming lessons** at Camberwell swimming pool. The lessons will take place on Monday and Wednesday. Swimming is an essential life skill and it is very important that each child attends these lessons. Please ensure that you child brings the correct swimming kit, **including a swimming cap** and a towel. It is also very important that they wear a warm coat. These lessons will continue until the summer term.

In addition to swimming, the children will be taking part in outdoor games and learning how to play **handball**. They will learn the safety rules and practise the skills of **throwing and catching accurately as well as using different movement techniques**. They will be taught how to make **good decisions and when to pass, shoot and move with a ball**.

Please make sure that your child has a pair of long plain navy blue tracksuit bottoms so they can keep warm during outdoor lessons.

SUBJECT NEWS

Art/D&T

This term children will be creating their Art work using cross curricular links with Geography and English.

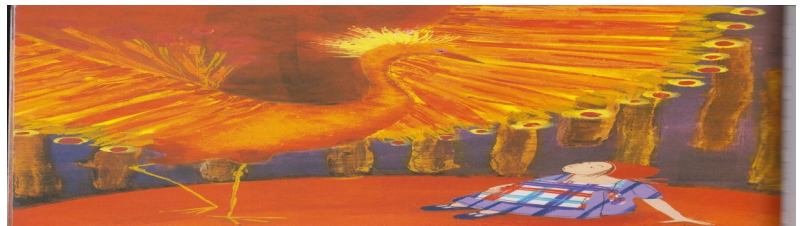
To begin with children will be focusing on **primary** and **secondary** colours. They will be producing artwork that reflects these colours and mixing to produce images that contain primary and secondary colours. They will blend vibrant colours, and use different media, like chalk and oil pastels, to produce images of the Firebird linked to our English text. They will also be using collage to design the eggs of the 4 elements: Earth, Water, Air and Fire. Finally the children will be studying images of Russian Faberge eggs and creating their own 3D designs.

The second part of the spring term will involve children **investigating pattern**. Again, this will be linked to our literacy unit where children are looking at different animals. We will be exploring different patterns in nature as well as patterns in our surroundings. The children will be using different resources such as paint, pastels and chalk to produce patterns.

Homework

Homework tasks are given to consolidate your child's learning. It is **essential** that all children are given support with all their homework; this includes learning to spell the words on their weekly spelling list .

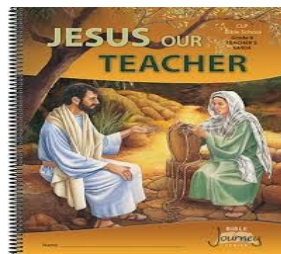
Homework will be given out every Friday and must be returned on Monday.



RE

During the first half term children will be looking at the theme "Jesus, the Teacher". In the second half of the term, children will be looking at the theme " Jesus, the Saviour".

See separate sheets for more information and details.



Jesus the Saviour



Music

This term children will be continuing to learn how to play the violin. They will also be consolidating their ability to use the bow finger positions correctly, and enhance their skills when reading and interpreting notation and rhythms. Year 4 will continue to explore a wider range of musical notes.

The class will also take part in weekly Hymn Practice sessions learning new hymns for Masses

