

TERMtalk

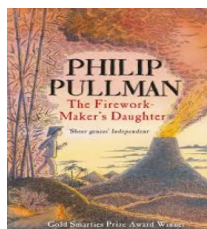
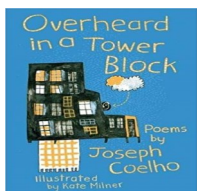
CURRICULUM NEWS
FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY
Year 4 Summer Term 2021



English In the first week of the Summer term, the class will be undertaking **cross curricular work on the topic of Buddhism**. They will be undertaking a variety of reading and writing activities about how Siddhartha Gautama became Buddha. They will also be researching key aspects of Buddhist life and creating an information poster about the festival of Wesak.

Following on from this, Y4 will be exploring powerful and moving poems, about growing up in the city, using the book **Overheard In The Tower Block** by local poet **Joseph Coelho**. They will be taught to identify poetic and figurative language, used in the poems, before picking apart themes and writing about them. Through the poems the children will be introduced to the skill of summarising and will look at words in context to identify their meaning in detail.

In the second half of term, we will be reading **The Firework Maker's Daughter** by **Phillip Pullman**. This novel will provide children with the opportunity to begin to investigate challenging vocabulary and the effect it has in particular contexts. There will be a focus on improving reading comprehension and the importance of being able to use inferences, to explain the main character's feelings, actions and motives. The children will be undertaking a range of extended writing activities, based on the book, which will allow them to enhance their story writing skills.



Maths

This term we will continue to work on **place value**. We will **compare and order numbers up to 10,000** including numbers less than one. The children will be also round numbers to the nearest integer (including decimals) by looking at the value of the digit after. They will also use this decimal notation when solving money problems. The children will also consolidate using the formal written column method when **adding and subtracting numbers to 10,000**. In preparation for their transition to Y5, the children will be learning how to multiply and divide using the formal written methods. **It is essential that the children know all the times table facts up to 12 and are able to relate them to division**. This will also help them when they are asked to find **fractions of numbers**.

In addition, the children will be undertaking work on **time, shape and measures**. They will identify name, compare and classify **polygons**, including special triangles. They will identify and compare **acute and obtuse angles, as well as make predictions about angle size**. The children will be learning to read co-ordinates, draw and **translate shapes** using a co-ordinate grid, in the first quadrant. They will continue to solve **Time problems using time tables** and calculating time differences. Linked to this, the children will interpret and present **continuous data using time graphs**, with a range of scales, and relate to recording change over time. Finally, children will be undertaking **practical problems involving mass and capacity**.

Please see the Maths Calculation Policy on the school's website for further information.

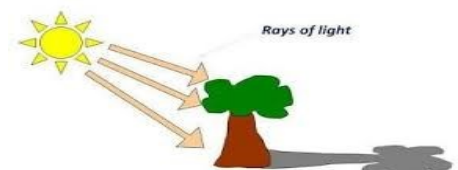


Science

During the first half term, Year 4 will continue their work on electricity, before starting a new topic about **Sound**. They will learn how sounds are made and that sounds travel in waves through solids, liquids and gases. The children will also be investigating how well sound travels through different materials and discover how instruments make sounds. They will also make suggestions about how to change the pitch and loudness of a sound or an instrument. Finally the children will plan and carry out investigations to discover how to muffle sounds, based on the story Peace at Last.

Our final Science topic for Year 4 will be 'Light'. We will look at sources of natural and artificial light, as well as why we need light in order for us to be able to see. The children will investigate a variety of surfaces, which reflect light, but that are not light source themselves, as well as evaluating their properties.

We will think about the importance of protecting our eyes from sun damage and how they can do this. Finally we will investigate shadows and how the size and shape varies at different times of the day.





OUR FOUNDATION

Art and Design

This term we are teaching the children to look at **line, shape, pattern and texture in all art forms**. Our Art and Design topics have cross curricular links with the books Overheard in A Tower block and the Firework Maker's Daughter, which we are studying in English, and the Mayan Civilization, which we are studying in History.

First the children will make skyline silhouette pictures, using water colours to create background then overlay with cuts outs of the London skyline. Next they will learn the skills of traditional Japanese Origami, and learn paper-folding, using a single sheet of square paper, to create a 3D sculpture, without cutting, gluing or taping. Following this they will be using pastels to create a firework picture using a dark background and brightly colored pastels. Finally the children will be designing and making a Mayan mask using papier-mâché and then decorating with colourful paint and mosaic squares.



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.

Thank you.



History

In History, the children will be learning about the Mayan Civilization, which began long ago in a place called 'Mesoamerica', a huge area which was made up from what is now Mexico and part of Central America.

First we will research who the ancient Maya were, where they lived and what they did. The children will explore what life was like for the Mayans including: family roles, what type of jobs they did and what their diets were like.

They will learn about which foods the ancient Mayas grew and the importance of farming to their civilization. Did you know that the ancient Mayans were the first people to make hot chocolate?

Following on from this, the children will find out about their culture, including Mayan art, clothing, stories and a famous ball game. They will also undertake research about some of the Mayan gods and discover what each of them meant to this ancient culture.

Finally the children will investigate the legacy of the Mayan civilisation, find out about some of the things that still remain of the ancient culture, and investigate some of the possible causes for their decline.



Computing

In the first half of the term, children will learn to animate in a variety of ways, including manipulating stick animation, recording movement and then going to create their own stop frame animations by recording using a program called **iMovie**.

They will plan a film sequence then use the **iPads** to record their own short films. They will develop an understanding of the different types of shots in filming and will be cutting and editing their own work to produce a final film. Finally they will watch each other's productions and evaluate their work.



During the second half of this term, the children will extend their coding skills and knowledge, which they learned in the Autumn term. They will work through the different levels of 'codeE' on code.org, and enhance their understanding of algorithms, loops, debugging, conditions and functions. This will also link with Maths logic and problem solving skills will continue to, as they continue to develop their understanding and use of the variables and loops instructions.



SUBJECT NEWS

Music

In music this term, will be taking a trip around the world and be exploring music created by different cultures.

We will be taking a closer look at, and appreciating the intricate sounds of Indonesian Gamelan, where compositions are created using tuned metals and gongs. This will take centre stage when we read our English text *The Firework Maker's Daughter*.

The children will also learn about the different rhythms of South America, to link in with our History topic about the Mayan Civilization. We will be looking at different percussion instruments which are vital in the distinct and varied sound of Latin American music.

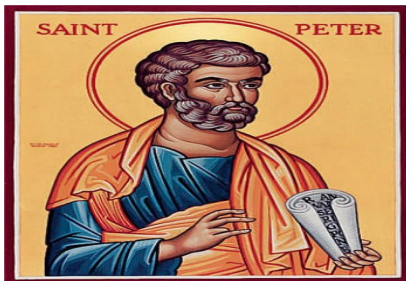


Reading:

Please support your child by reading with them every night, discussing the story with them and looking up the meaning of unfamiliar words using the dictionary.

Don't forget to sign their reading card.

Thank you!



Religion

Our theme for first half term is "*The Early Christians*". Children will learn that Peter was chosen by Jesus to be the head of the Church and reflect on what this means for all Christians. They will also explore the challenges that the Apostles of Jesus faced. The children will learn about the feast of Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit. Finally they will learn about the lives, challenges and sacrifices made by Stephen, Paul and Silas on their mission to spread the Word of God.

During the second half term, Year 4's topic is "*The Church*". The children will learn that the Church is the family of God, and understand that the Church is good news for all of God's people. During this topic the children will learn about the Sacraments, the Church's year, the Communion of saints and the Church's mission. Finally they will reflect on how Mary is the Mother of the Church, learn about God's call to us all and the work and of Pope John Paul II and Mother Theresa.



Physical Education

This term, the children will be taught **gymnastics** by a specialist gymnastic teacher. The children will learn how to perform a variety of floor movements. They will learn straight jump full turns, cat leap half turns, straddle rolls, lunges into cart-wheels and the straddle on vault. This will enable them to develop their understanding of the necessary flexibility, strength and control needed to perform the movements successfully. Children will have the opportunity to choreograph their own sequences and routines, performing individually and as part of a small group.

In outdoor PE, the children will learn the skills players need to play cricket. The children will learn how to catch and throw across different distances with accuracy. They will develop their skills of cooperation and explore how working as a team helps to prevent the opposition from scoring points. Children will develop tactical skills, understanding effective ways to 'run the points'. They will have the opportunity to design and play a range of mini team games to help them identify and improve their skills. We have also been very lucky because the LSSPEN will be coaching Y4 in multi-sports sessions on the 4th May. After half term, the children will undertake a range of athletics skills and activities which will enable them improve their running, jumping and throwing skills.

Please make sure that your child wears the correct summer P.E. kit:- a white P.E. shirt, navy shorts and plimsolls or trainers.