



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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YEAR 4 TERMLY CURRICULUM LETTER SPRING TERM 2024

Dear Parents,

We have already made a fantastic start to Spring term and have so many exciting things to look forward to!

Outlined below are some of the topics that will be covered this term in Year 4. You might have noticed from our Spring key dates that Year 3 and 4 will be performing an Easter play for you all on Monday 18th March at 6pm and Tuesday 19th March at 2pm. There will be more details to follow but please add this date to your diary.

English

Firstly, we will begin looking at Non-Fiction biography writing based on 'A Life Electric – Nikola Tesla' to explore the theme of saving the planet. The children will explore this text closely to identify the features of a Non-Fiction text as well as its structure and layout. They will then have the opportunity to explore different themes through research before writing their own biography applying our new writing techniques and styles.

Secondly, the children will explore a playscript based on a History topic of the Plague. Similar to our previous unit, we will spend time exploring the structure and layout of a playscript whilst learning about the features and styles of writing. They will use drama to explore characters and suspense. They will plan, edit and write a new section of a playscript to apply their new learning.

Guided Reading

Year 4 will continue to engage in daily guided reading sessions. 1 or 2 of these will be whole class sessions based on a new topic each week, with the remainder being small group sessions. The children will have the chance to engage with the text and practise key skills to answer questions about that text. We will also be visiting the Learning Hub once a week allowing the children to read for pleasure in a different environment. During this time, the children will have the opportunity to select a book from here to take home for that week. Please ensure these books are then bought back into school the following week (or once finished) to return and choose their next read.



Please continue to use reading records as a document of all reading. This reading record should be coming into school every day. We aim to read 1:1 with the children as much as possible and the children read independently on a daily basis.

Spelling

Spelling tasks will be sent home in their homework which will aim to support the children to practise the new rule(s) we have been learning that week. A weekly spelling test will see how the children are getting on with their spellings and any gaps in learning.

Across the term, some of the spelling rules we will focus on are:

- Suffix 'ous'
- 'ee' sound made by 'i'
- 'au' digraph
- Variations of the 'ion' suffix
- Adverbs of manner
- Challenge week (any common misconceptions from previous weeks)

Maths

In **Maths** children will be taught:

- Multiplication and Division – factors, multiples, 2 digit multiplication, x10, x100 and dividing by 10 and 100
- Length and perimeter – metres/kilometres, perimeter of rectilinear shapes and polygons
- Fractions – understanding the whole, mixed numbers, improper fractions and equivalent fractions
- Decimals – tenths and hundredths
- A continued focus on multiplication and division facts using times tables.

In the Summer Term Year 4 will take the **compulsory Key Stage 2 Multiplication Times Tables Check (MTC)**. This will take place over a three-week period – more information to follow.

We have spent a lot of time on our times tables already with our speed and accuracy improving all the time. The children will use a Chromebook for the MTC so we will be spending time getting used to the format of this over the next few months.

Please continue to support your child with their times tables. Here are some useful websites/apps that can help your child with their times tables.

- Top Marks
- The Maths Factor (pinpoint times tables check)
- URBrainy
- WhiteRose App

In **Religious Education** the children will learn how festivals and worship show what matters to Muslims as well as understanding what the impact the Pentecost has on Christians.

In **PSHE & Citizenship** our topics are 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'.

Science

Before half term we are continuing with our topic of **Electricity**– see vocabulary list.

After half term our topic is **States of Matter** – see vocabulary list.

As **scientists** the children will be taught to:

- Use electrical equipment safely and accurately to investigate complete and incomplete circuits.
- Explore the use of switches in stopping the flow of electricity.
- Use reasoning to explain how and why electrical appliances work.
- Explore solids, liquids and gases, their properties and how they act.
- Group materials into solids, liquids and gases. Observe changes in state as materials are heated and cooled.
- Learn about the Water Cycle and how it operates all around us.

In **History** this term we will be focussing on **Anglo Saxons** and in **Geography** we will be seeing **the difference between jungles and deserts.**

In **History** our key question is **who were the Anglo-Saxons and how do we know what was important to them?**

As **historians** the children will be taught to:

- Consider how archaeologists help us to understand more about what has happened in the past.
- study artefacts and discuss how and what they might have been used for in Anglo-Saxon times
- Compare the Anglo-Saxon way of life with how people lived before them and how we live today.

In **Geography** our key question is **why are jungles so wet and deserts so dry?**

As **geographers** the children will be taught to:

- Use atlas skills to locate tropical rainforests and jungles on a world map.
- Identify the equator, the Tropics and the different continents.
- Research the distinctive features of jungles and deserts introducing the word 'biome' and understanding what climate means.
- Investigate how climate can affect the plants and animals living in a place.

As **artists** the children will be taught to:

Analyse works of art, using inference and prediction to explore what might be depicted and intended by the artists.

As **designers** the children will be taught to:

Work independently to produce an accurate, functioning slingshot car.

In **French**, we will be covering the following units:

- Vegetables
- Presenting myself

PE

PE will continue to be Tuesdays (indoors) and Fridays (outdoors).

These are the areas covered for the Spring term:

Indoor:

Gymnastics with apparatus

Outdoor:

Hockey and volleyball

What do we expect of you? You can help and support us by:

- **Labelling all items of clothing and providing a water bottle.**
- Listening to your child read each evening and support recording in their reading record with a signature.
- Testing times tables on a regular basis.
- Providing safe computer access in order for them to access homework.
- Assisting your child with research and other studies as appropriate.
- Ensuring that your child comes to school in PE kit for Tuesdays and Fridays.
- **Homework** will be set on a Wednesday and should be **completed by the following Wednesday.**

If, at any stage, you have questions or require further clarification relating to any aspect of your child's school activities, please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment by emailing the School Office. We are here to work in partnership with you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Roberts
Year 4 Class Teacher