



This term the Year Four topics are **The Romans and Europe**.
The topic offers many cross-curricular opportunities and will be closely linked to our Literacy and Art work.

This term's topics

These are the following topics that the children will be studying this term:

Topic: The Romans and Europe

Science: States of Matter and Electricity

ICT: 'We are Co-Authors' and 'We are Toy Designers'

DT: Cooking-Savoury Dishes

Art: Roman Mosaics

RE: 'Who is the Holy Spirit' and 'How can artists help us understand Christmas'

French: 'All Abroad!' and 'Pocket Money'

Autumn Term in Year Four

Welcome to Year 4. Hopefully you have all had the chance for a good rest and recharge over the summer. This term will be continuing to implement the new National Curriculum, revising some of the key concepts that have already been learnt and building on the children's existing knowledge in both core and foundation subjects. We hope that the following information will be useful in helping to support your child in their learning.

Home Learning

In Year 4, the children are expected to read at least four times a week for at least 10 minutes. Even if they seem to be fluent readers, please persist in asking your child to read to you and in discussing their book with them. We encourage parents to ask questions to check their child's understanding and explain their thinking as this is so key in the mastery of reading.

We will be delaying our assessment of the children's comprehension levels until later in the year in order to give them time to settle into school and adjust to new routines.

Comprehension skills are complex skills that need lots of practice and discussion. Key questions to ask your children include "what has happened?", "how do you know this?" and "what do you think will happen next and why?"

Each week the children will be given one to two pieces of curriculum based work. These should be completed by pupils within a 45 minute timeframe. Work will be set on a Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday. If your child struggles with the task, please don't persist – time at home is precious. Stop them after 45 minutes and pop a note in their home learning book to say that they 'had a go' but ran out of time.

The children should all have been given a list of the spellings they are expected to know by the end of Year 4. We would be grateful if you could look at these with your children and test them on the odd word or two. Please discuss the word meanings with your child, as well as the spellings themselves.

Do use the websites listed to help your child consolidate their learning.

Useful Websites



Topic-The Romans

1) BBC Schools

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/romans/>

2) British Museum

www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and.../ancient_rome.aspx

3) Woodlands Junior

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/Romans.html>

Maths

Woodlands Junior

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

1) Nrich

<http://nrich.maths.org/frontpage>

2) Cool Maths

<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

Literacy-

Woodlands Junior

1) <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy2.htm>

2) Roald Dahl

<https://www.roalddahl.com/>

3) C.S Lewis

<https://www.cslewis.com/uk>

Class visits, visitors and special events

We hope to repeat last year's successful educational visit to **Spelthorne Museum, Staines**. Here the children will be given the opportunity to learn about what Staines looked like and what went on when it was a Roman town. Staines has changed significantly over the years!

We will also have an '**Ancient Roman Day**' in the second half of the Autumn Term.



Artefacts at Spelthorne Museum, Staines

This term, as part of their core subjects of study...

Maths

In the **number** unit, the children will be revising and extending their mathematical learning from Year Three so that they can become increasingly fluent with using whole numbers and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). They will also have opportunities to develop efficient use of their number facts, place value and times table knowledge.

In the **shape** unit, the children will compare and classify shapes based on their properties, identify and compare a range of angles and identify lines of symmetry within 2-D shapes.

In the **fraction** unit, the children explore families of equivalent fractions, as well begin to learn about decimals such as explore decimal equivalents to $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and round decimals with one decimal place to the nearest whole number.

There will be a strong emphasis on problem solving and reasoning, with a weekly whole class investigation. You can help your child by asking them to explain the methods they are using to solve problems in homework tasks. It is also useful to practise multiplication tables with them. There will be weekly challenges using these!

English

During the first term, the children will be reading the book Matilda. Towards the end of the unit, they will write their own new Matilda scene, based on Roald Dahl's style, using all of the ideas built up along the way.

After half term, all of the children's creative writing learning and opportunities will be taught through a text-based unit, with our class text being: 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.

There will be a strong emphasis on SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) throughout all of these units.

Science

During the autumn term, the children will learn about '**States of Matter (Solids, Liquids and Gases)**'. They will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. They will observe that some materials change state when heated or cooled, and they will identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.

Throughout all of these activities, the children will be constantly developing their scientific enquiry skills such as predicting, fair testing, observing and evaluating.

I hope you find this information leaflet helpful and that your children are enjoying life so far in Year 4. If you have any further questions or queries, please don't hesitate to ask me. I look forward to welcoming you into the classroom on the 11th of September for our Meet the Teacher session.

Mr Helps

As part of their wider, topic related studies...

History

This term, the children will be learning about the daily lifestyle of the people living during **The Ancient Roman** time as well as have the opportunity to explore how the invasion and culture of the Romans had an impact on Britain. Most of the lessons will include open-ended activities to enable the children to develop and explore their historical enquiry skills. These include asking questions, building up research skills and understanding the purpose of artefacts to inform us about the past.

Computing

During the first unit '**We are Co-Authors**', the children will learn how to produce a wiki pages using a software package, with strong links to our Roman and Europe topics. During the second unit, '**We are Toy Designers**', the children will experiment with creating a simple toy for Reception, using the programme Scratch which can be downloaded for free if they would like to try using it at home.

PE

The children will continue to develop the key **fundamental skills** that are needed to play in a range of sporting activities. They will also have the opportunity to develop their swimming and water safety skills, during their weekly swimming lessons.

PSHE

The children will be taking part in many speaking and listening activities to enable them explore their thoughts and feelings through the topics '**New Beginnings**', '**Say no to Bullying**' and '**Getting on and Falling out**'.

RE

This term the children will be participating in two Christianity units. In term one, '**Who is the Holy Spirit?**' the children will explore how the Holy Spirit can impact on Christian lives and their beliefs. In term two, '**How can artists help us understand Christmas**' the children will explore how artists portray the importance of the nativity scene in a range of ways.

Art

In art, the children will be exploring **Roman Mosaics** using printing methods. The children will learn about the importance of Roman Mosaics in society as well as experiment with different patterns used before they create their own mosaic design based on the styles studied.

Design and Technology

In DT, the children will learn how to prepare and cook a variety of **savoury European dishes** using a range of cooking techniques, to link in with our Europe topic. We will also look at **nutrition** and **healthy eating**.

Music

Using the Charanga scheme of work, the children will supplement their history learning by following the **Romans** unit. They will also have opportunities to prepare performances for our **Harvest** and **Christmas** productions.

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

During the first unit, '**On y va! (All aboard)**' the children will learn to speak familiar phrases, broaden their vocabulary and basic structures when talking about transport. During the second unit, '**L'argent de Poche (Pocket money)**', the children will learn to converse about their pocket money, in French.