

Lower KS2 Half Termly Curriculum Overview

Year 4 2015/2016 - Spring 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the half term break, I hope you had an enjoyable time. It was great to get to spend time meeting with you at the parents evening just gone, and I hope you found it interesting looking through your children's work. For this spring half term I am pleased to provide you with information about what the children will be covering in the different subjects. We are continuing with the new curriculum this academic year. If you wish to know more about it visit the DfE website, the school website or speak with me.

Catholic life of the school

This half term we will be continuing with our class masses. Each Friday two classes will join with the parish to celebrate Mass at 9am. Year 6 and Reception, Year 5 and Year 1, Year 3 and Year 2 and Year 4 will join the parish. Please look out for dates on the weekly newsletter or on the school website.

Each day the children will take part in collective worship. Whole school collective worship begins our week every Monday, followed by class collective worships led by the teachers and children on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Fridays there is a key stage assembly.

The Wednesday Word is available for every child to take home every Wednesday. Please look out for this and share it with your child. Additional copies are available at the school office.

Also this term the children will be involved in charity work during Lent. We will be taking part in fundraising activities and raising awareness of local charities through the Good Shepherd Appeal for Nugent Care. We will also be raising funds for 'Mission Together' which supports international charity work.

Healthy School Initiative

As part of the healthy school initiative, we will continue to encourage the children to be active at playtimes. Children will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day; therefore it is important that the children have their bottles in everyday! It makes it easier for the children if the bottles have a sports top, as it would prevent any unnecessary spillage.

Healthy snack days will continue to be Monday to Friday and the children will be given the opportunity to eat their snacks during morning playtimes.

Information and dates to remember:

World Book Day - Thursday 4th March
Sacramental programme in Church -
Thursday 17th March at 3.45pm
School finishes for Easter weekend -
Wednesday 24th March
School re-opens - Tuesday 29th March
School closes for Spring break - Friday 2nd
April

Homework information

- **English homework** will be given out on a Friday and is to be handed in the following Tuesday.

- **Spellings** will be given out on a Tuesday and tested the following Monday, in addition to a focus on the children embedding their spellings into their written work and working in their Spelling Logs.

- **Maths homework** will be given out on a Tuesday and is to be handed in on Friday of the same week.

- **Reading** Each child should read for a minimum of 15 minutes per night and complete their reading records.

Concerns and messages

If you have any concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to come in and see me at the end of the school day.

Any messages in the morning must be left with a Teaching Assistant on the Junior gate and they will be passed directly to me that morning.

Year 4
General Class
Information

Big Maths

The children will continue to complete a weekly 'Big Maths' assessment and will be assessed at the end of the half term on their progress.

Each child will continue to keep their Big Maths files in their book bags so that they can share their assessments with you and work on the types of questions that they find more challenging. The children will continue to split into smaller groups and work with a Big Maths teacher once a week.

Please encourage your child to use their Maths skills at every opportunity.

Remember we are going for green!

Reading

In line with our school policy the children will develop their reading in class throughout the week through shared reading and guided reading sessions and I shall be monitoring their reading progress carefully each week with my own records.

The reading records are for parents to record your child's reading at home. We ask all our children to read for 15 minutes each night. Although I will be keeping my own record of your child's reading progress it would be really helpful if you could make comments in your child's reading record book each time they read, to let me know how they have coped with a book at home. Our class reader for this half term is 'Can You Catch a Mermaid?' by Jane Ray.

Home reading records are checked and once a week their home reading is acknowledged and a target will be highlighted in the book.

If your child reads any other reading material as well as their reading book from school please also make a note of it in their reading record. The home reading record is also a good way to make contact with me if you wish to send me a message and cannot get into school.

This year as part of our new 3 year Improvement Plan, we are particularly focusing on 'Reading'. As well as our reading activities in class, we ask that in addition to hearing your child read, you share books and read to them and explore the pleasure of reading with your child.

The school continues to run an early doors reading club (£2) 8am - 8:45am each morning. Open to all!

Grammar Hammer

The children will continue to complete a weekly 'Grammar Hammer' assessment and will be assessed at the end of the half term on their progress.

Each child will continue to keep their SPAG folders (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) in their book bags so that they can share their assessments with you and work on the types of questions that they find more challenging. The children will be focusing on one grammar aspect each week.

Please encourage your child to use their folders to practise different areas of grammar at every opportunity.

RE - Spring term topics

Giving and Receiving

This topic will allow the children to explore how God is a God that loves to give gifts, and how these gifts can be received.

Self-Discipline

The children will be learning about Lent and how and why people prepare and behave during this time of self-discipline.

Eucharist

The children will be looking towards their first holy communion, and will be learning about all the different aspects that go into the Communion Mass in order to prepare themselves completely.

Science- Living Things

- Identify and explain the seven characteristics of living things, and how their habitat is suited to their different needs.
- Classify different living things, using keys to help easy identification.
- Work scientifically by investigating mini-beasts within the school grounds, and focus on the habitat they are found in.
- Recall and build on previous knowledge of food webs.
- Discuss and debate the effect of humans on the habitat of other living things.
- Research the different measures that can be taken to help sustainable management of habitats.

English

Reading

- Use dictionaries to check the meaning and spelling of words.
- Continue to listen to and discuss a range of fiction, nonfiction and reference books.
- Read, listen to and discuss a range of traditional poetry.
- Discuss words, phrases and uses of grammar that capture the reader's interest and imagination.
- Read a variety texts each day including books, newspapers and leaflets.
- Understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by:
- Checking that the text makes sense to them, explaining the meaning of words in context, asking questions to improve their understanding of a text.
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction and participate in discussion about both books.

Writing

- Use organisational devices e.g. headings, sub headings, bullet points and lists.
- Compose and rehearse sentences orally, building a rich vocabulary and a range of sentence structures.
- Assess effectiveness of their own and the writing of others, and look to suggest ways of 'up-staging' it.

Grammar and punctuation

- Vary sentence structure by expressing time and cause using conjunctions, and prepositions.
- Correct use of past and present tense.
- Revision of apostrophes to mark contracted forms in spelling.
- Lists, bullet points, headings and sub headings to aid presentation.
- Continue to improve verbs using adverbs to aid interest.
- Develop use of interesting adjectives to aid impact.
- Consistently use paragraphs appropriately.

Spelling

- Work through the stage four spellings and apply them in their written work.
- Continue to develop accurate use of prefixes and suffixes.
- Identify and practice any weaknesses within the high frequency words.

Mathematics

Number - number and place value

- Count on from 0 in multiples of 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 50 and 100.
- Find 10, 100, and 1000 more/less than a given number.
- Solve number problems involving multiples and 10 and 100 and 1000 more/less.

Addition and Subtraction

- Add and subtract numbers mentally - 4 digit number and tens/hundreds.
- Add and subtract numbers with up to 4 digits, using formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction.
- Solve addition and subtraction problems, including missing number problems.

Multiplication and division

- Recall multiplication and division facts for 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 times tables.
- Recall multiplication facts for 7 and 8 times table.

Fractions

- Recognise, find and write fractions of a number and equivalent fractions.
- Simplify fractions, as well as adding and subtracting fractions.
- Round 1 decimal place to the nearest whole number.

Apply fractions in money problems.

Measurement

- Solve problems, add and subtract amounts of money to give change.
- Know the number of seconds in a minute and the number of days in each month, year and leap year.
- Accurately tell the time, and solves problems relating to it.

Geometry - properties of shapes

- Identify 2D shapes, recognise them different orientations and describe their properties.

History

- Investigate the formation of the Roman Empire and its expansion across the globe.
- Describe and compare life in Britain before and during the Roman occupation.
- Research the preparation undergone by the Romans to invade Britain and how they came to conquer it.
- Gather information regarding the influence of the Romans on Britain focusing on architecture, infrastructure, and education.
- Visit Chester, to examine the different clothing and techniques used in the Roman army.

PE

This half term the children will be continuing to develop coordination skills such as:

- Hopscotch forwards, backwards and alternate feet.
 - Combining side steps with front and reverse pivots.
 - Skipping with high elbows and high knees. They will be advancing in their own personal skills by asking for help when appropriate, and trying several times if at first they don't succeed.
- These skills will then be encouraged through skills based activities, competitive games and ball games.

PSHCE

- Myself and others / Healthy lifestyles.
- The children will be continuing to learn about themselves, as well as others, as they continue to grow.
 - They will also continue in learning about how they can live a healthy active lifestyle.

Topic Title

Rowdy Romans

Computing

- Research and compare different ways of presenting information.
- Discuss the benefits of presenting certain information in a certain way.
- Investigate the level of information needed in a presentation in order to make it engaging.
- Create a presentation for a chosen area, before using this to present to the rest of the class.

Art

- Research Roman mosaics, and how they were designed and created.
- Design and create templates for their own roman inspired mosaics.
- Select appropriate materials and create mosaics.

DT

- Investigate Roman aqueducts, and how their design was directly linked to its purpose.
- Design their own model aqueduct, and choose the appropriate materials.
- Use a variety of engineering skills to create a working model.
- Use finishing techniques.
- Show their design meets the requirements for an aqueduct.
- Make changes to their designs, when and if needed in order to improve it.

Music

- Listen to and appraise a thought provoking song relating to sharing and giving.
- Research the different methods and techniques used to create the song.
- Create their own verses and include them in the class song
- Perform songs with accompaniments and improvisation added to it.