



How to Help at Home



- Our day for PE has changed to a Thursday. We recommend that the children bring trousers and a hoody as part of their PE kit. They are also advised to bring a hat and gloves in, with the weather being cold. We will continue with swimming lessons every Monday so please ensure that your child has their kit in school.
- Support and encourage your child to learn their weekly spellings which will be in the back of their diaries. These will be given on a Monday and the children will be quizzed the following Monday.
- Please ensure your **child has their reading book and diary in school every day**. Encourage your child to read for at least **15 minutes every night** and remember to comment in their reading diary.
- Learning our times tables is a priority this year, as we have the multiplication check in June. Please could you spend some time, practising with your child and ensure they are logging onto Times Table Rockstars every night. The children know their passwords and this site can be accessed on any device.



Dates for the Diary



Tuesday 21st January—Y4 'Healthy Heart' session
 Monday 3rd February—Judo taster session
 Wednesday 5th February—Valentines disco
 Monday 10th February—Final Creative Homework check
 Tuesday 11th February—Accelerated Reader deadline
 Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February—Parents consultations
 Monday 17th February—Half term
 Thursday 5th March—World Book Day
 Tuesday 24th March—Big Sing
 Friday 27th March—Accelerated Reader deadline
 Wednesday 1st April—Dance Festival
 Friday 3rd April—Break up for Easter holidays.



If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact Miss Conway, Miss Whaley or Mrs Hewitt.

Curriculum Overview



Year 4



Spring Term



Welcome



We would like to wish you all a fantastic New Year and welcome back to Year 4! We are looking forward to the children continuing on their journey in Lower Key Stage 2 and maturing and growing, as they did last term! We would like to thank you for your continued support. Year 4 team.



English Overview



Our English lessons will continue to follow our Literacy and Language programme. We have began the Spring term exploring a new text with a historical setting: 'Runaways' by Jim Eldridge. The children will explore the setting and use it to immerse themselves in the story. They will explore themes of poverty, workhouse life and will use the Geordie dialect to give an extra dimension to their character's dialogue. This will provide inspiration for writing their own story based on a Victorian child from Dunston and their escape from a workhouse. Keeping with the Victorian theme, we will be researching the work of Dr Barnardo to help us write a biography. After half term, we will be looking at poetry where we will explore the different forms and language techniques such as metaphors and personification.



Maths Overview



Arithmetic skills are very important therefore Arithmetic tests are completed each week and key areas of learning identified and addressed. We will be having a huge focus on times tables and we will be using BBC Supermovers to help us recall our times table facts. We have shown the children how to access this at home and we look forward to seeing their times table knowledge develop. We will be using our times table knowledge to help us with our written methods for multiplication and division. We will apply these skills to a range of reasoning and problem-solving tasks. Later in the term, the children will be looking at fractions and decimals. We will be finding fractions of objects, shapes and numbers and we will also be looking at relationships between fractions and decimals enabling us to find equivalents.



Science Overview



In Science we have began looking at the different types of teeth we have and their functions. We are going to look at ways to keep our teeth healthy and investigate the impact that different liquids can have on our teeth. We are hoping to have a local dentist visit our school, who will further develop our knowledge. After half term, we will be focussing on electricity and the components needed to make a circuit.



Our Curriculum



PSED: Over the next term, we will deliver sessions linked to strategies for safety and wellbeing as part of the INSPIRE project. These lessons will help children think about how they can develop safe coping behaviours as well as identify and access appropriate support networks if they need to. We will do this by looking at different scenarios and discuss potential feelings and reactions to these situations and how or who they can ask for help.

History/Geography: Our topic this half term is 'The Victorians' with a focus on History. The children will be learning about how different life was during that era and will make comparisons to what life is like now. We have began our topic looking at a range of artefacts - thinking about how these items have changed over time. Our Geography topic this term will also be linked to the Victorians, however will have a focus on 'Victorian Dunston'. We will be delving into the past of our local area as we explore the similarities and differences in modern and Victorian day Dunston. We will also undertake a study into the impact of industry on the local area.

DT/Music: We will continue to look at greenhouses and investigate the stability of their structures and the effectiveness of different designs. We will then use this to plan and make a mini greenhouse. In music we will be focussing on learning the songs for our production.

Computing: After we have finished our 2Logo unit on Purple Mash, we will be revisiting some basic word processing skills as we feel that the children would benefit from doing so. We will be using Microsoft Word to create multiple documents and we will use the different features to edit our work.

PE: After our dance unit, we will move onto hockey and will be focussing on how we can pass and dribble a ball effectively, as well as developing our attacking and defending skills. We will put all of the acquired skills into practise in a Year 4 hockey tournament in school.



Creative Homework



We will be continuing our fantastic Creative Homework journey and look forward to seeing the creativity and imagination of all of the children. We were blown away by the homework we saw last term! Children **must** achieve a minimum of 15 points every half term, the specific progress check points can be found at the bottom of the homework grid. Two lunchtime sessions per half term will be available in school to help children achieve their points.



Out and About



As part of our topic we will be going on an educational visit to Cragside where we will be given a guided tour around the house, including access to the power house and grounds. We are yet to confirm a date, more information will follow closer to the time.