

YEAR 4 SPRING TERM 2021

ITALY & THE ROMANS

English

Our English for this term is jam-packed full of cross-curricular writing and reading opportunities. To begin, we will be exploring narrative poetry inspired by Michael Morpurgo's poem 'Coming Home'. Following this, we will then be exploring the rules of writing playscripts, trying our hand at becoming play-writes ourselves; William Shakespeare eat your heart out! After this unit we will be writing biographies followed by our very own mystery stories set in Ancient Roman times. We will travel back in history, becoming the Sherlock Holmes of ancient time! Will you be able to unravel the mystery? Finally, our writing topic will conclude with an exploration of one of the most famous events in history: the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. We will write newspaper reports about those events as if we were reporting first hand from the Roman period! Our reading sessions for this term will be inspired by a number of fiction and non-fiction texts that will support our English and topic lessons this term; providing children with an enriched cross-curricular experience.



Maths

During our lessons this term, Year 4 will be developing their understanding of multiplication and division. A significant part of this will be applying times tables knowledge, so some extra practising of these would be extremely helpful. The children will also be exploring problem solving and reasoning through a range of opportunities looking at patterns and puzzles, including calculating the area of a range of different 2D shapes.



Following on from this, in the second half term, we will be learning about fractions. The children will find fractions of shapes and numbers as well as apply multiplication and division skills to find equivalence between fractions with different denominators. They will finish the term by exploring decimal numbers.

Geography and History

This term's topics are 'Italy' followed by 'The Romans'. In the first half of the term we will be looking at the human and physical features of Italy and comparing them to those of the UK. In the second half of the term we will be learning all about Ancient Rome. This will include: its culture and society; the geography of the Roman Empire; important Roman figures and the impact of the Roman Empire on Britain.

Computing

During this term our computing lessons will develop our desktop publishing skills using a range of software including Microsoft Word and Publisher, as well as focussing on developing efficient web research skills. In our coding sessions, we will complete a selection investigation, whereby children will write their own simple code for their sprite to respond to different stimuli. As part of our e-safety work we will discuss the importance of keeping personal information and photographs private online.



Science

Our science work will begin with an exploration of electricity and how circuits are made. We will start by exploring basic circuits; understanding why circuits may not work in certain situations. Towards the end of the half term we will create our own switches that allow an electric current to flow. We will then be exploring the topic of 'sound' during which we will investigate how sound travels and how we hear sound. This unit will include the opportunity to develop investigative skills and extend our scientific vocabulary.

RE

This term's concepts are Myths and Rituals. We will be looking at traditional Hindu stories and exploring how these stories and rituals provide meaning to Hindus.



PE

This term we will initially be developing our physical and tactical skills through football and basketball. Other provision will be made dependent upon circumstances around school closures and guidance for indoor PE.



Music

In Music, Year 4 will listen and appraise pop music by the 70s group, ABBA, using the inter-related dimensions of music and standard notation, compose their own melody using two pitches.



PSHE

In PSHE lessons, our children will develop their understanding of how to assess risks to improve their personal safety and stay safe in real life situations. We will also explore the value of difference and how important it is to recognise this within different communities including those we are a part of.



MFL - French

We will continue to extend our oral and written vocabulary (including through simple sentences) within the topic areas of our families; we will make and play our own games to help learn new vocabulary.



Art and Design Technology

In Art, we will explore different types of Roman pottery creating patterns and designs. In DT, we will follow a learning journey to develop our skills in designing, making and evaluating our own creatures with moving parts with a focus on levers.

