

Term 1

KEY DATES

Friday 15th Sep-
tember

**Roald Dahl Day
(Penguin work-
shops for the chil-
dren)**

Monday 18th Sep-
tember, 3.30pm
**Year 4 Welcome
Meeting**

Monday 26th Sep-
tember, 9:00am
**Phonics workshop
for parents with
children new to the
school**

Tuesday 3rd Octo-
ber, 9:00am
**Reading workshop
for ALL parents. This
will help you to se-
cure the best pro-
gress for your child.**

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome to Year Four! We have had a great start to the year. It is wonderful to see familiar faces back again and we would like to extend a special welcome to the three new children who have joined us this September. Thank you for all your communication and support already this term – this will have a huge impact on your children’s learning.

This year, we are adding three new subjects to the children’s timetable; Religious Education, British History and Latin.

English

We will start the year off in English by studying the wonderful poem ‘The Owl and the Pussycat’ by Edward Lear. The children will develop their ability to think analytically about literature and we will be working towards writing a discussion text focussed on the use of fantasy elements in the poem.

Our book study for this term will be *Beowulf* by Michael Morpurgo, which the children should have prepared for by reading the book over the summer. *Beowulf* is an exhilarating tale of heroism, which tells the story of the legendary Scandinavian hero Beowulf’s quest to rid Denmark and his own land of the Geats of the evil forces that terrorise the people. While studying the book, we will focus on persuasive writing and writing our own retellings of the story.

Key vocab: fantasy, playful, imaginative, Beowulf, Denmark, Geat, hero, persuasion

Activities at home: reading daily and discussing the book with an adult, handwriting practice, spelling practice, keeping a reading diary, writing stories and descriptions.

Maths

We begin the year with a clear focus on number sense and reasoning with 4-digit numbers. This means recognising the place value of each digit (thousands, hundreds, tens and ones) and being able to solve number and practical problems that involve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

We will be revising identifying, representing and estimating numbers using different representations and rounding any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000 within this unit as well.

Key vocab: Digit, ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, group of ten, value place, equal to, greater than, more than, less, fewer, factor, multiple, compare, order, is equal to, inverse, partition

Activities at home: talking about definitions of key words, role playing practical maths problems, practicing Learn It’s and number bonds, playing online Maths Games



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**Wednesday 11th
October**

**Trip to the Unicorn
Theatre to see Beo-
wulf**

**Thursday 9th No-
vember**

**Trip to the Tower of
London**

**Tuesday 21st No-
vember**

**RCM Lunchtime
Concert at Pimlico
Academy**

**Thursday 7th De-
cember**

**Class visit to Pimli-
co Library**

History

This year, we will study ancient Greece, having learnt about Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt in Year 3. The ancient Greeks thrived from c. 2,000 BC until 146 BC, when they were conquered by the Romans. It is thanks to the ancient Greeks that we have such things as democracy, philosophy and drama. This term, we will be learning about the early period of ancient Greece, which we call the Bronze Age, and some of the civilisations who lived during this time, notably the Minoans and the Mycenaeans.



Key vocab: civilisation, culture, architecture, drama, philosophy, democracy

Activities at home: Talking about history with an adult, finishing any essays or creative writing

British History

The first of our new subjects this year is British History. We feel that it is important that, alongside their chronological study of ancient history, the children are able to leave primary school with a sense of the events in history that have shaped our country as it is today. Children will therefore be taught about British history from Year 3 onwards. The children will start by learning about Augustine, the monk who brought the Christian religion to England in the 600s. They will be encouraged to develop their analytical thinking and writing skills, through discussion, and both creative and essay writing.

Key vocab: Augustine, monk, monastery, Christian, King Ethelbert, Queen Bertha, Pope

Activities at home: Discussing the historical narrative with an adult, learning and practising the spelling of key vocab, writing creatively about the period.

Geography

We have a busy first term in Geography this year! Our general theme is to learn and understand where places are in the world and where they are in relation to each other. We will do this by learning to use and read different types of maps, globes and atlases as well as revising oceans and continents.

Key vocab: Continent, location, ocean, compass, physical, political, equator, hemisphere, latitude, longitude

Activities at home: discussing where different places/countries are, looking at maps of the world and talking about key vocabulary terms

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REMINDERS

Homework

Homework (both Maths and English homework) should be handed in on a Tuesday, every week.

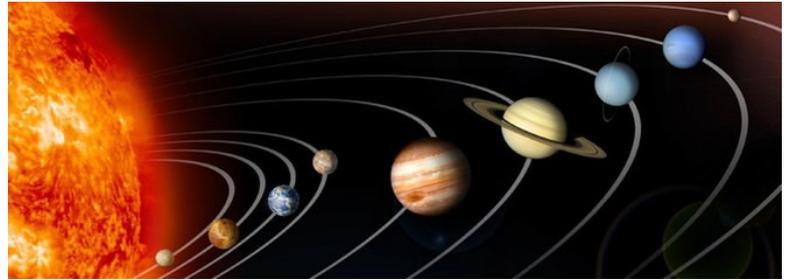
Learn Its &

Spellings

Children should practise their Learn Its and spellings every day.

Science

This term in Science, the children will be learning about astronomy, the Earth and the Sun. Children will recap the structure of the Solar System and will begin to learn what lies beyond it. They will then investigate how and why we experience day and night, using a variety of different experiments. Children will also learn about why the Sun appears to move across the sky during the day.



Key vocab: astronomy, Earth, Sun, solar system

Physical Education

This term in PE, the children will be learning netball. We will be concentrating mostly on the key skills of movement around the court for players and the ball. These skills include passing, catching, footwork and decision making. In addition, the children will get the chance to practise shooting skills to improve their accuracy and hand eye coordination. Netball is a great sport that helps to develop a child's core motor skills and teamwork.

Key vocab: netball, coordination, decision, control

Activities at home: practising catching a ball on the run and stopping quickly.

Art

It is so lovely to welcome York class back to the Art studio. We will be starting the year by re-visiting colour theory and familiarising ourselves with the names of the Formal Elements in Art. The Formal Elements are the parts used to make a piece of artwork. The art elements are **line, shape, form, tone, texture, pattern, colour composition.**

We will be creating our own paintings entitled 'A room with a view' looking for inspiration from Matisse's works: Harmony in the red room, 1913 and The blue Window, 1908.

Key vocab: line, shape, form, tone, texture, pattern, colour, composition, Matisse



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P.E. Kit

Children should come into school in their P.E kit on a Tuesday morning. They will remain in kit until they change for swimming. They should NOT bring their uniform with them.

Swimming

Children should bring their swimming kit into school with them on Tuesdays.

They are to be picked up from the Queen Mother Centre. At 3.15pm.

Latin

The children will be starting to learn the Latin language this year. It may seem like an odd choice of language to learn, but it will really benefit the children's English. Around 60% of English words come from a Latin root and so learning Latin will help to widen their vocabulary. We will be starting off by learning about what it was like to live in the city of Rome during Roman times, alongside slowly building our knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar.

RE

This term, year 4 will explore enlightenment within Buddhism. We will discuss the celebrations of Wesak which remember the Buddha's birth, *enlightenment* and death. Children explore the different ways a Buddhist would go about celebrating the festival of Wesak and consider **why enlightenment** is so important to Buddhists. We will then review some of the Buddha's insights and revelations and how these influence the daily lives of Buddhists.

Key vocab: Buddhism, enlightenment, Wesak, insights, revelations

Music

This term in music Year 4 will be continuing with their course in Kodaly musicianship, revising the core concepts of pulse and rhythm, and developing their understanding of pitch relationships. We will be singing songs using the pentatonic scale, typical of many folk traditions the world over. Good songs to look up and listen to at home are Deep South American spirituals and work songs. We will also be applying this learning to instrumental playing - on recorder this term, and on violins starting from January on.

Key vocab: pulse, rhythm, pitch, pentatonic, folk tradition

