



Term 4

KEY DATES

Wednesday 4th
March

Year 4 trip to the
Troy exhibition at
the British Museum

Thursday 19th
March and Tuesday
24th March, 3.40pm-
6.40pm

Year 4 English Parent
Progress Meetings

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Welcome to Term 4! We begin the term with a visit to the British Museum and the wonderful Troy exhibition there, which will support our learning in ancient history.

English

This term, the class will be finishing Leon Garfield's adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Sometimes dubbed 'the Scottish play' (for fear of bringing a curse on the speaker), *Macbeth* is arguably Shakespeare's darkest and spookiest work. It is the tale of an ambitious Scottish general, his wife and their thirst for power. *Macbeth* is a story of witches, magic, treachery and murder that is guaranteed to enthrall and captivate children. We shall also be consolidating our understanding of poetic devices, such as onomatopoeia, alliteration, personification and similes, and practising using these in our creative writing.

Activities at home: grammar homework **every evening** and **every weekend**, spellings to learn **every weekend** for a weekly spelling test

Maths

This term, the class will be continuing with our fractions topic. We will learn how to add and subtract fractions greater than one, with the same denominator. Next, we will solve problems through finding unit and non-unit fractions of quantities and amounts, within real life contexts. After fractions, we will study 'time'. First, we will learn to convert between different units of time, such as minutes and hours, days and weeks, months and years. This will lead onto being able to solve and write our own worded problems involving converting between these measurements. Lastly, we will learn to write and convert time between analogue and digital 12- and 24-hour clocks.

Key words: o'clock, a.m./p.m., morning, afternoon, minutes since, minutes past, until, mid-day, noon, midnight, analogue, digital, minutes, hours, seconds, weeks, fortnight, months, years, decade

Activities at home: **Please keep practising times tables daily!** Ask the children to tell you the time at any given opportunity, using digital and/or analogue clocks. Ask the children time questions such as: How long is it until dinner time? What time do you need to get up in the morning? How many minutes do you have until we leave the house? How long was choir club? Mathematics—for short and frequent bursts of time.



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Ancient History

This year, the class are studying the civilisation of ancient Greece, which flourished for almost 2,000 years, from c.2,000 BC to 146 BC, when the civilisation was conquered by the Romans. We are learning about some of the Greeks' most important and enduring inventions, such as democracy, drama and philosophy. We are also learning about the extensive pantheon of Greek deities and some of the most popular Greek myths, including the stories of the Trojan War and Odysseus. We shall conclude the year with a detailed study of Alexander the Great, one of the most successful generals from antiquity, who conquered most of the known world by the age of 32.

Key vocabulary: civilisation, antiquity, democracy, drama, philosophy, deity, pantheon, mythology, myth

Activities at home: reading as much as possible, discussing history with an adult

British History

This term, the class are learning about Henry VIII's break with the Papacy in Rome and his Act of Supremacy in 1534, which made him Supreme Head of the Church of England. All this was the result of Henry VIII's desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. These events became known as Henry's 'Great Matter', and they laid the foundations for the huge upheavals between Protestants and Catholics that were to dominate British history for many years to come.

Key words and concepts: divorce, annulment, Tudors, dynasty, Pope, Protestant, Catholic, Church of England, Reformation Parliament, Reformation, Act of Supremacy

Key people: Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Clement VII, Charles V, Campeggio, Thomas Wolsey, Thomas Cranmer, Thomas Cromwell, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard, Catherine Parr

Activities at home: discussing the historical narrative with an adult, learning and practising the spelling of key vocab, and reading as much as possible on the subject



Term 4

REMINDERS

Swimming lessons

The class will be going swimming every Wednesday during Terms 3 and 4. Children need to bring a swimming costume and a towel into school on Wednesdays. Children should come into school in school uniform EVERY DAY—NOT in P.E. kit.

Homework

Grammar homework to do every evening and every weekend, with spellings to learn every weekend for a weekly spelling test.

Learn Its

Keep practising
Learn Its every day!

Latin

This year, the class are consolidating their understanding of the five noun cases. We use the nominative case when the noun is the subject of the sentence, and the accusative case when the noun is the object of the sentence. We use the genitive case to show possession, the dative case when the noun is the indirect object of the sentence ('to' or 'for'), and the ablative case with the prepositions 'by', 'with' or 'from'. Any testing by adults at home will greatly benefit children, as a new language needs to be repeated little and often.

Activities at home: vocab and grammar (especially the verb person endings: -o, -s, -t, -mus, -tis, -nt) testing by an adult at home

Geography

This term, the class will be studying various topics with a UK focus: climate, mountains, rivers, oceans and seas, coasts, settlements, population and census. Throughout the term, the class will be consolidating their understanding supported via a range of map-working tasks. The class will also be learning to use a range of new geographical vocabulary. Any testing of keywords/concepts and current examples of UK affairs by adults at home will greatly benefit the children.

Key vocabulary: latitude, degrees, Greenwich Meridian, coordinates, altitude, climate, temperate, weathering, mountain, glacier, erosion, crust, weathering, valley, sediment, deposition, spring, tide, North Atlantic Drift, headland, bay

Science

This term, the class will be studying the following chemistry topics: states of matter, changes of state, freezing, melting, evaporation and condensation and the water cycle. Throughout the term, the class will be using a range of explorative techniques aided by scientific experiments to consolidate their understanding. The class will also be learning to use a range of new scientific vocabulary. Any testing of key words/concepts and examples of liquids, solids or gases by adults at home will greatly benefit the children.

Key vocabulary: solid, liquid, gas, states of matter, volume, size, properties, vapour, freezing, melting, evaporation, condensation, prediction, fair test



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Art

In art this term, the class will be learning about the artist and ornithologist John James Audubon. He published his now legendary book 'Birds of America' in 1827. The focus this term will be on developing the children's drawing skills. They will use a variety of art materials to draw birds from memory and observation. Some of the pages from Audubon's book are on display at the National History Museum, so it would be lovely if you could take your child to see them. They will also make a small model of a bird using a collection of recycled materials.

Key vocabulary: symbolic, texture, featheriness, ornithologist, taxidermy, naturalist

Music

This year, the children are having their music lessons at Pimlico Academy. One student from each class will receive a 'Music Star of the Week' certificate to take home.

P.E.

Key vocabulary:

Activities at home: get outside and be active as much as possible; Years 3, 4 and 5 can attend Saturday Sport each week!