



Queen's Drive Primary School Year 4 Curriculum Letter - Spring One

Welcome to our first letter of 2024!

This half term we will be covering a wide range of topics in the lessons stated below.

In English this half term, we will be focusing on report writing, discussions and debates, as well as stories on a theme. A lot of this term's English will be linked to our class novel, 'I was a Rat' by Philip Pullman. Year 4 will be transported back though time when reading this text and create newspaper articles, stories and participate in debates involving moral choices and dilemmas.



In reading, children will continue to be exposed to a variety of genres and improve their comprehension skills during whole class, shared, guided and individual reading sessions and look at the book *Charlotte's Web*. They will continue to develop their understanding of features of different genres of writing and link this to further grammar work to re-enforce this.



Year 4 follow the No-Nonsense Spelling programme from the Department for Education, these continue to be sent home each week in the children's reading diaries for them to learn for a test.

A spelling focus will be tackled in morning work throughout the week, but we expect these to be practised at home.

Your child will bring home their reading book each night, and we expect them to bring it in each day so they can read with an adult in school.

Parents tips to help - It is important that children can practise their reading at home and every child benefits from being able to discuss what they have read, commenting on the plot of the story, describing characters, predicting the end of the story, recognising effective vocabulary and understanding the authors intent, etc. Play games changing verbs from past to present and vice versa.

Mathematics

In Maths, we will be focusing on the key concept of place value in the first two weeks and then moving on to mental and written forms of Multiplication and Division, Addition and Subtractions and then Fractions. Please complete tasks on Seesaw and TTRockstars to help your child with their understanding.

Parental tips to help: Please help your child to have instant recall of number bonds (two numbers that add to make the numbers 1-10 and 20) and secure knowledge of their X-tables. This will give them a real advantage when tackling multiplication, division and fractions! Mental Maths skills contribute significantly to their understanding and progress throughout their school life, so repetition and practice is essential. The formal written methods will be practised in school.

Science

In Science, the children will continue to focus on developing their scientific skills through a range of practical investigations using a range of different stimuli to promote Scientific Enquiry. Children will reinforce their understanding of **Electricity**.

They will construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. The children will recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

This unit also provides an excellent opportunity for the children to explore ways of saving electricity around the home and school. They will design posters and find out why using less electricity helps the planet. Search 'Energy Saving' on the



internet to find numerous organisations and companies providing information and resources.

Topic /Theme

This half term we are excited to begin the topic - Passport from Preston! We will develop our Geography education of mountains and rivers by learning about land features across Europe. Through studies of European cities we will learn more about culture in other European countries and compare it to our own. The children will find out what draws tourists and immigrants to our continent and look at why Brits emigrate.

Music Next half term the children will focus on singing, rhythm patterns, pitch and pulse in music and develop skills whilst learning to play an instrument. When the opportunity arises we will explore and play a variety of musical games to help children identify the beat and pulse of the music. They will also perform rhythms whilst listening to different genres of music (classical, jazz and pop). Linked to our Science work on Electricity, the children will listen to a range of songs that highlight the use of electronic instruments rather than traditional/acoustic ones. The pupils will explore a range of sounds made by electronic devices and find instrumental and vocal sounds to match these whilst composing their own original tracks.



Computing

During this half term children learn how to code using Discovery Coding. Children can access this at home and they can demonstrate the amazing games that they have made to you. We will also be developing the children's understanding of Online Safety and how this is crucial in ensuring a positive relationship with the internet.

R.E.

Our RE focus this half term is Sikhism. We will consider the main points of this religion and the beliefs and ways of life of Sikhs. If any parents are experts in this religion and would be willing to expand on the children's knowledge then you are more than welcome to come into school. Please see one of the teachers to arrange this.



P.E. and Games

This half term the children will be developing their dance ability and talents. Our second session of the week will develop the children's general Health and Fitness, as we continue to make good use of the daily mile track and weather permitting, the plentiful outdoor space available to us at Queen's Drive.

Homework

Homework will consist of daily reading which should be recorded in individual diaries. This can be done with an adult or an older sibling. Sometimes reading may be done independently, although it is a good idea to check on your child's understanding with a few comprehension questions. Children will be given spellings each Friday for a test the following Friday. Please encourage your child to learn these to ensure full marks on the test. Finally, multiplication and division homework will be set on TTRockstars. The children should join in the battle between classes and attempt other areas of this online game to enhance their speed of calculating!

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter and your continued support. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Mrs Farrington,
Mr Harrison and
Mr Noblet**