



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning

Academic Year 2014-2015

- **Year:** 4
- **Term:** 2

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mr I Smith
- Mrs L Miller
- Miss J Pendlebury

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the second curriculum overview of the year and takes us all the way up to Christmas. The purpose of the overview is to let you know what the children will be learning this term and set out some of the ways in which you can support them at home.

It is important that children receive the right kind of support in school and at home so that they can really understand and use all the new things that they learn in school every day. This is why we set homework tasks. That gentle, but constant reinforcement is very important. Developing good homework routines/habits in primary school is also key for future success, which is why teachers' expectations are shared in this overview along with suggestions for supporting your child/ren at home.

It is very important that all homework is at least attempted. If your child does not understand something, do not worry, the homework has done its job. It has revealed a gap that we can then work to close. The quicker we close gaps the better, so just send a note in or email or have a word with the teacher and we will act. No child will ever get into trouble if s/he has honestly done their best but does not understand. It is important that children always feel supported and encouraged especially when they are challenged by something they are learning.

We know that teaching and learning methods change over the years and so are **always** happy to explain them if you have a question or are not sure about something. Just let us know. We are also happy to arrange workshops or even support you on a one-to-one basis if you would find this more helpful. Please speak to your child's teacher in confidence if you would like some support.

If you can support us because you have a skill, specialist knowledge; a real-life experiences to share; or useful contacts, please speak to your child's teacher. All offers of help are welcomed and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

Homework

Children will be given homework on a Friday and this will be expected to be completed by the following Friday.

The homework will be:

- 'My Maths' homework differentiated at the correct level for your child
- 'Bug Club' for reading homework
- spellings
- cross-curricular theme-related homework at various other times

There is a daily Homework Club at lunchtime from 12.30pm in the Year 6 classroom which is run by Mrs Miller supported by some of the older children. At the club pupils can ask for support from her or her team of helpers. Pupils attending the club also have access to the library, computers and other technology as well resources not necessarily available at home. *Every child is welcome to attend.*

RE

Please see the attached 'Come and See' letter for more information about the RE themes this term.

Year 4 (Term 2)



English: Basic Skills – Reading, Phonics, Spelling and Handwriting

Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar & Handwriting

All children will benefit from having regular handwriting and spelling practise and regular grammar and punctuation sessions focused on meeting their *individual* needs.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *supporting them to learn their weekly spellings*
- *talking about their targets for writing (please refer to the interim reports)*

Book Study

This term the children will be undertaking book study. This involves reading a book of high quality and interest in small groups. The children will then undertake a series of comprehension questions to support their understanding of a wide range of texts.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *reading your child's reading books with them for a few minutes every day (as well as other books)*
- *encouraging your child to read a wider range of more challenging books from the library*
- *talking about their targets for reading (as shared on their record sheet from Parent's Evening)*

Mathematics: Daily Number & Calculation Skills

This term we will be focusing on the new Y4 mathematics. We will be looking at this term:

- ✓ mental calculation strategies
- ✓ place value
- ✓ more formal calculation methods

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *adding, subtracting and multiplying two digit numbers*
- *talking about numbers and what each digit means in numbers to 100 000*

Theme 3: The Way we Were

Our wider curriculum focus this term will continue to be the whole-school theme: 'The Way We Were'. All of our art, Geography, D.T. and science will be covered through this topic. The children will also undertake a one week International project: the Year 4 children will be looking at South America.

Be Safe - Be Happy Week

When we return from the break it will be 'Be Safe – Be happy Week'; our third special curriculum week of the school year. Across school the children will explore a range of different issues including: bullying, fire safety, road safety, e-safety, stranger danger, basic first aid, 'bikeability' and safeguarding.



Remembrance Service

In the run up to our Remembrance Service on Wednesday 11th November, the children will be having a lesson about the importance of Remembrance Day and what it really means. Please join us of the Remembrance Service. It starts at 10.30am on Wednesday 11th November at Our Lady of Lourdes.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *looking at an atlas and the countries which make up South America*
- *continuing to research the historic period from the 'Stone Age' to the 'Iron Age'*

English: Creative Writing within the Theme

During this theme the children will be making their own decisions on the genre of writing they will focus on. Outside of the theme children will be undertaking descriptive writing about characters & settings in story writing. The children will be undertaking a piece of work based on the Christmas story: The Shepherds. We will be undertaking lots of role play and discussion before starting our writing.



You can support your child's learning at home by:

- looking at various types of writing such as: stories, reports, poems and other non-fiction writing
- looking at the Christmas story – it would be nice if the children can bring in some books into school from home

Science within the Theme

We will be investigating changes of state of materials.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- thinking about how materials change state
- investigating what the three states of matter are
- exploring how ice can be changed into a liquid state

History within the Theme

We will continue to investigate the period of British history from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We will also undertake a week's project work on the First World War and the Christmas Truce of 1914.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- looking for information about the three historical periods: Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages
- investigating how people may have lived during this time
- looking for information relating to WW1

Music

Music is taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher and there will be a focus on preparing for the leavers' concert and Mass. We will also be using musical instruments to accompany poems and stories in order to enhance impact.

Computing

Your child will be learning about programming and will construct their own computer game.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- looking at how games operate
- thinking about the ways games are designed to grab people's interest and 'pull' them into play them

PE

This term the children will focus on Basketball and Real PE.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- asking them about their lessons and what they have learned
- practising the skills learned in school