

Year 4 Summer Newsletter



Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely Easter break. This newsletter outlines what we will be learning during the Summer term. If you have any questions, please get in touch! Our Year 4 email address is year4@otleyallsaints.co.uk

English: Writing

We are starting the summer term with a focus on **Non-Chronological Reports** and using headings, subheadings and paragraphs to organise information. To support our learning in Science, these reports will focus on endangered animals.

Following this, we will move on to look at **Fairytales** from new viewpoints, for example looking at the story of Cinderella told by the stepmother and how this can change the narration. Within this unit, we will have the opportunity to practise our skills using speech marks and fronted adverbials.

We will also be completing a short poetry topic where we will be exploring the very popular **limerick** style. We will be creating our own (hopefully) humorous limericks!

Throughout all our topics we will continue to practise all the grammar and punctuation features for Year 4, and try to use them correctly in our different genres of writing. As always, it is an expectation in Year 4 that we check our spelling and punctuation carefully before we hand in work so that it is our best effort.



Our class stories for the Spring term are 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell and 'Agents of the Wild: Operation Honeyhunt' by Jennifer Bell and Alice Lickens.



English: Reading

We will continue to **read daily**; this will be as a whole class, as a small guided reading group or individually. There will also be an opportunity for children to read for pleasure a book of their choosing – this can be from our class or school library or from home if they wish. We enjoy listening to a class story together as a lovely way to end our day.

We know that many of our children are avid readers which is brilliant – the more they read, the more confident they will be with their writing too. Even the most competent readers still hugely benefit from **discussing the text** after they read (perhaps with a focus of one or two pages of their book). We encourage children to read to an adult at home **3 times a week**; please record any home reading in your child's reading record. Thank you.

English: Spelling

Spellings will be set on a **Friday** and be tested the following **Thursday**.

We practise the 109 Year 3/4 tricky word list every morning (which is separate to our spelling lessons) as our morning word work. The next time we are tested on these words, we will bring home a personalised record of our progress mastering these.

In RE we will explore the Christian festival of Pentecost and its meaning for Christians around the world. After half term we will be learning about Sikhism and why Gurus are at the heart of Sikh beliefs.

Dates for Diaries:

Tuesday 9th May: Viking visitor in class
Monday 12th June: York Birds of Prey Centre
(letter to follow shortly)



Maths

We are continuing our topic of **Fractions and Decimals**, including:

- recognising families of common equivalent fractions
- counting up and down in hundredths
- solving problems involving fractions to calculate quantities and divide quantities
- add and subtract fractions with the same denominator
- recognising and writing decimal equivalents to a quarter, half and three quarters, and of any number of tenths or hundredths
- dividing a one or two digit number by 10 and 100
- rounding decimals with one decimal place to the nearest whole number
- solving simple measure and money problems involving fractions and decimals

Other areas we will be learning about are:

Geometry

- properties of shapes including lines of symmetry
- describe positions on a 2D grid as coordinates
- describe movements between positions as translations up/down and left/right
- plot specified points to complete a polygon

Money

- ordering, estimating and problem solving with money
- converting pounds and pence

Time

- converting analogue time to digital time

Multiplication Tables Check

After half term, all Year 4 children will take a statutory online Multiplication Tables Check where they are assessed on their times table knowledge. This test is in the same format as the 'Soundcheck' on TTRockstars. We will be doing lots of practice in class this half term to prepare, but any additional revision at home would be very beneficial. More information on the test can be found following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-table-check-information-for-parents>

Science

To start the term, we will be looking at **Living things and their Habitats**. Here we will be recognising that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways, and exploring and using classification keys. We will also be learning that environments can change and that this sometimes can pose dangers to living things. We will have an exciting trip to **York Birds of Prey Centre** to support our learning for this unit



After half term, we will focus on **'States of Matter'** where we will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. We will also conduct experiments to observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C). Lastly, we will identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

DT

This term, DT is taught by Mrs Lawrenson. The children will use their knowledge from our science topic about **Electricity** earlier in the year, and apply it to an exciting project where they will design and make their own board games with electronic elements!

PSHE

This term, we will focus on **Democracy** and learn about Britain as a **democratic society**, understanding that there are different political parties who differ in their views and that people can be influenced in elections. We will explore **how and why laws are made** and the importance of following them. Finally, we will learn about our **local council** and how there are often limited resources for the needs of the community; people may have different views about how the money should be spent.

Geography / History

We have a History focus this term with our topic on **Vikings**. We will aim to answer the following questions:

Why did the Vikings raid and invade Britain?

- Where did they come from?
- What was life like in Viking homelands?
- What did Britain have to offer invaders?
- How did Vikings settle in Britain?

What happened at Lindisfarne in 793?

- Why was Lindisfarne such an important island?
- Who lived on Lindisfarne?
- How did Vikings find and attack the island?
- How do we know about the attacks?

What did the Vikings believe?

Why did Alfred sign a treaty with Guthrum?

- Who was King Alfred?
- Who was Guthrum?
- How did Guthrum become Athelstan?

What happened in 1066?

- Who was Edward the Confessor?
- What happened between 1016-1066?
- Who was William the Conqueror?
- What was the Battle of Hastings?

Our Viking visitor in class on Tuesday 9th May will be a fantastic way to start this topic.

Computing

This term we will be answering the question, **'How to write efficient programs using Scratch'**. We will begin by looking at algorithms and how to break them down, and we will use repetition to make our programs more efficient. After half term, we will further our programming in Scratch by looking at **'How to use interaction in a programme to tell stories.'**

In **Art** this term, we will be exploring and experimenting with pastels as we study the landscapes of Valerie McKeehan.

We aim to:

- experiment in creating mood and feelings with colour
- experiment with texture
- sketch lightly to avoid using a rubber
- use sketches to produce a final piece of art
- make notes of how artists have used pattern, colour, texture, tone, shape, space, form and line



This term, **French** will be taught by Mrs Lawrenson and our topics are **En classe** (about our classroom/school) and **Au salon de thé** (a tearoom).

PE For this half term, PE continues on a **Wednesday** with Mr Wilce (Cricket and Athletics) and on a **Monday** with Mrs Lewis (PE Skills). Please can your child continue to come to school in their PE kit on these days. Thank you.

Music

Our focus this term is our whole class instrumental teaching of the recorder. We will be working in smaller group sizes to learn how to play the recorder, and reading musical notation of pitch and timing. This will involve a bit of practising at home, please encourage your child to do this, however noisy!

