



Curriculum Newsletter - Spring Term 4

Welcome to our curriculum newsletter!

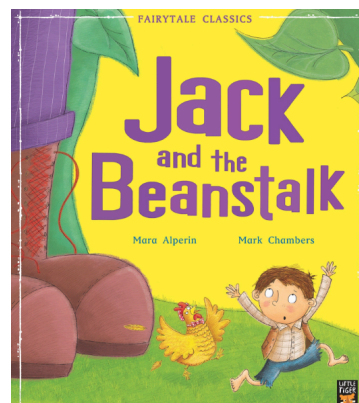
Please find below information about what your child will be learning about this term. You will notice that each term has 3 key concepts. The learning is designed to explore these concepts in class so that children develop their life skills as well as their academic knowledge. If you have any questions about the learning this term, please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher.

Lemurs - Year R

Key concepts for our curriculum this term are: stewardship, choice and change

Our overall topic for Term 4 is **Growth and Change**.

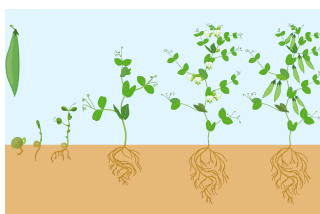
In **Literacy** this term, we begin our topic with the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Children will have the opportunity to really get to know this story through reading different versions of it as well as retelling the story using actions and props.



In **Maths** we will continue to build on our number knowledge by introducing the numbers 9 and 10 and will work on recalling key facts including doubles to 10 and number bonds to 10 (pairs of numbers that go together to make 10 e.g. 7 and 3, 5 and 5). Linked to our main story (Jack and the Beanstalk) we will also look at measuring height, length and time. We will end the term by investigating and exploring 3D shapes too.

In **RE**, we will be answering the question 'What makes the world special?'. We will be exploring what makes the world around us special and children will learn why the world can be special to both themselves and others. They will also be listening to other people's ideas about caring for the world and discussing reasons why this is important. As we move towards the end of term we will also learn about the meaning of Easter and how it is celebrated.

In **PSHE**, our topic will be Healthy Me. Children will be thinking about what the phrase 'balanced diet' means and discussing which foods are considered to be more healthier options.



Our **Understanding of the World** focus this term ties in nicely to our literacy topic as we will be planting our own beans and keeping a bean diary as they grow. We will discuss what plants need in order to thrive and children will take care of their plants, watching them closely before taking them home to see how they continue to grow! We will also continue our ongoing learning on the four seasons by making observations of where we can see signs of Spring.

In **PE** this term we will continue to follow the Balance, Education and Movement (BEAM) programme which supports children's coordination and balance through practising a range of exercises which encourage children to balance and hold their weight in different ways.

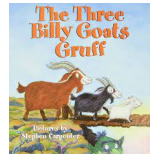
In **Art**, we will be exploring painting and using different media to create collaborative artwork. As always, the children will also have the opportunity to explore a range of different materials to junk model and create during PDR.

Finally in **Music**, our theme this term follows the topic 'Our World'. Children will continue to learn and sing different nursery rhymes as well as beginning to play along with musical instruments such as a glockenspiel.

Otters - Year 1

Key concepts for our curriculum this term are: pride, belonging and identity

In **English** this term we will be celebrating books and reading during Book Week. We will also be focussing on the text, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, building skills in order to write our own narrative in a similar style. As a part of this, we will be using repetition for rhythm and description. Also, we will be finding out how to write exclamatory sentences to make our writing exciting to read. We will also be learning how to edit and improve our written work.



In **Maths** our focus will be on addition and subtraction to 20. Using number bonds and counting back as our strategies to subtract. We will be counting between 20 and 50, forwards and backwards. We will then move onto exploring length and height using non standard measures, as well as comparing mass and measuring capacity.

In **RE**, we will be identifying reasons why it is important to care for the world. We will be exploring the belief that God created humans as stewards over nature through scripture.

In **Geography** we will explore the enquiry question - What is the Geography of where I live like? We will identify and describe physical and human geographical features of a range of environments and understand that geography is the study of how people are connected with these environments. We will use a number of GIS layers of Google Earth to identify and observe familiar physical and human geographical features of the immediate vicinity of our school.



In **PSHE** we will be thinking about how to stay healthy. We will explore what it feels like when we have made healthy choices and the things we need to do to look after ourselves to stay fit and healthy.

In **Science** we will be exploring the question- How can we take care of our planet? Thinking about why it is important to care for our planet, and how we can do this. We will then move onto finding out about seasonal changes, looking specifically at Spring. We will be collecting and recording data to support this enquiry. Finally we will explore plant growth over time, by using our observational skills.

In **Computing** we will be exploring a unit known as iprogram. In this unit, we will be guiding a programmable toy to where we want it to go. We will plan, test and amend a sequence of instructions that moves a programmable toy. Finally we will make predictions about where an object will be after executing an algorithm.

In **PE** this term we will be working on Dance and Gymnastics skills. The children will be practising movement skills before building up to performances in front of the class individually, in pairs and in small groups.

In **Art** we will be creating a tree of life sculpture that includes several different techniques for shaping paper. We will make choices about our sculpture, e.g. how we arrange the tubes on the base or the colours we place next to each other.

Finally in **Music**, Otters will be combining pulse, rhythm and pitch in a unit called 'Round and Round'. Singing and listening are at the heart of each lesson. We will be learning to play, improvise and compose using a selection of these notes: C, D, E, F, F#, G, A. This unit celebrates a wide range of musical styles.

Meerkats - Year 2

Key concepts for our curriculum this term are: equality, happiness and value



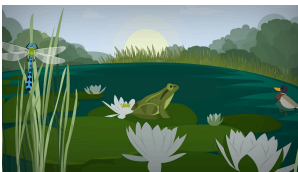
Our core text in **English** this term is *Leaf* by Sandra Dieckmann; a heart-warming story about helping 'outsiders', that also highlights the plight of polar bears in today's changing climate. The children will be using this story as a stimulus for fictional letter writing in the role of Leaf the polar bear, as well as for discussions around the importance of treating all those in our society equally and with respect, the true meaning of 'home' and the threat of warming sea temperatures to wildlife around the world. The children will also learn to research, organise and record facts about polar bears for fact-files. We will continue to challenge the children through their choice of vocabulary and sentence structure, as well as introducing new grammatical features including commas in a list, adverbs for effect, and further coordination to extend sentences. We also look forward to a special Whole School Writing Project during Book Week - stay tuned!

In **Maths** we will be continuing to learn multiplication and division. In order to do this successfully, the children need to be able to count in 2s, 5s and 10s fluently. We also learn to count in 3s this term and it is always helpful to practise this at home if you can! The children will develop an understanding of the link between multiplication and repeated addition for 2s, 5s and 10s and use this knowledge to solve word problems. They will continue to divide by sharing and grouping using cubes, pictorial methods and mental strategies. After this, we will move on to measuring length in cm and m, mass in g and kg and temperature in degrees celsius.

In **Geography**, we will be asking the question 'How does Kampong Ayer compare with where I live?' The children will make comparisons between their lives and those of people in a small diverse community in the country of Brunei on the tropical island of Borneo in southeast Asia.

In **DT**, we will be learning about mechanisms and how they can be used to create fairground wheels. All the children will have the opportunity to design, create and evaluate their very own miniature fairground wheels.

Computing sees us explore iPub. We will learn about the world wide web and how it has developed over time. We will also learn to make a presentation and create an interactive ebook to share our findings.



Science in Meerkats class focuses on living things and their habitats. The children will learn about the characteristics of living things, and the ways in which living things depend on each other in a habitat. We will also learn about how different animals are adapted to their habitats and what actions people are taking today to protect habitats around the world.

Our **PSHE** unit is entitled Healthy Me. We will explore which foods and food quantities can be good for our bodies compared to less healthy or unsafe choices. The children will have the opportunity to compare their own and their friends' choices, express how it feels to make healthy and safe choices in their own lives and describe the benefits of this.

In **RE**, we will explore the question 'What is a Prophet?' We will learn about the characteristics of prophets and why they are important to some religious people.

Our weekly **Music** lessons we will be using the Charanga scheme to recognise different sounds and create our own compositions. We will also be learning the song 'Zootime'.

In **PE**, we will be learning Gymnastics and Dance. The children will be practising many skills before building up to performances in front of the class individually, in pairs and in small groups.

Rhinos - Year 3

Key concepts for our curriculum this term are: equality, poverty and dreams

Our core text in **English** this term is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. As part of our writing we will focus on character descriptions of which Roald Dahl was amazing at. The children will be able to use their imagination as well as references from the book to create their own incredible character for the story. We will also look at persuasive letter writing with the text. The children will have the opportunity to write their own letter to Mr Willy Wonka persuading him to make their creation. Our first week back we will be looking at different types of poetry with a focus on haikus, limericks and sonnets.



In **Maths**, we will start to look at fractions. Children will understand denominators, numerators and the whole as well comparing and ordering fractions. Later on in the term, we will begin to look at mass, capacity and volume and comparing them.

In **PE**, Rhinos will be learning football and gymnastics. In football we will focus on basic control skills such as sending the ball with some accuracy to maintain possession. In gymnastics, we will continue to improve and build on our knowledge of rolls, balances and jumps.



In **Geography**, we will be asking the question: why do so many people in the world live in megacities? Children will develop their understanding of the important geographical concepts of settlement and urbanisation through the study of the world's megacities.

In **Science**, Rhinos are looking at light. We will be learning about different light sources and how we see. Children will learn about the sun and the effects it has, both positive and negative. Our investigation this term will be with shadows and understanding how distance between the light source and the object affect the size of the shadow.

In **French** we will be learning how to say ten different animals in French. We will learn songs such as 'Old Macdonald' in French to help us remember the animals.

Computing sees us exploring databases to find information out and add records. Children will look at how information is organised in a database and the advantages of having a computer database versus a paper one. They will learn how to find and add information to create additional records.

In **PSHE**, our topic is 'Healthy Me'. Knowing that our bodies need energy from food and drink and that exercise helps our bodies become fitter is important. We will focus on what being healthy means and how we can stay healthy. We want to be healthy, fit and happy both in our minds and bodies.

Our Learning Question in **RE** this term is 'What happens if we do wrong?' The children will study a variety of religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Humanism to investigate who has the authority to decide the consequences of wrongdoing.

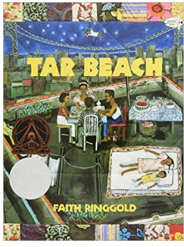
Our weekly **Music** lessons will be focused around one song: The Dragon Song. This is a song about kindness, respect, friendship, acceptance and happiness. The children will continue to listen to different songs and appraise, sing and play the glockenspiel to this song.



This term we are starting a new **Art** unit which focuses on exploring and creating Ancient Egyptian art, guiding pupils in understanding and applying the styles, patterns, and techniques of Ancient Egyptian art through lessons that include designing scrolls, making paper, and creating contemporary responses using zines.

Penguins - Year 4

Key concepts for our curriculum this term are: pride, free will and transformation



In **English** this term, we are studying the picture book *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold. Through this text we will write our own poetry inspired by the theme of freedom and work towards writing our own playscripts for the story. In writing these playscripts, we will develop our skills in writing and punctuating dialogue and using fronted adverbials to open sentences. During Book Week we will be looking at Lost Words, and using it to inspire our own poems.

In **Maths**, we will be learning about fractions. Children will work on a mixture of fractions including; mixed numbers and improper fractions, finding equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions.

Our **Geography** project will involve investigating the question 'What is the Sunshine State really like?' Penguins are excited to learn about the features of Florida, the Sunshine State, including why Magic Kingdom is so popular with tourists, what the climate is like in Florida compared to where we live and how people living there cope with hurricanes.

In **Design and Technology** lessons, we will be designing, making and evaluating our own slingshot car. This will involve cutting wooden dowels and using wooden cams and wheels to create a slingshot car.

In **Science** our focus will be on electricity. Children are introduced to the concept of electricity and understand that electricity is a way of moving the energy needed to power appliances. Moving onto the concept of circuits and will focus on series circuits, drawing and building circuits and understanding the components.

In **PE**, Penguins will focus on Netball and Football. Children will work on showing control and accuracy, developing passing and defensive skills in both sports.

In **French** we will name and recognise up to 10 vegetables. Learn simple vocabulary to facilitate a role play about buying vegetables from a market stall. Also to be able say if they would like one kilo or a half kilo of a particular vegetable or selection of vegetables

Our **Computing** unit will focus on iProgram, introducing children to visual programming language, which uses the context of art to engage the children in expressing themselves creatively. It also introduces the children to programming using a text-based language,



In **PSHE**, our learning will focus on how to keep ourselves healthy. This will include learning about what makes a healthy friendship and how friendships can change over time. We will also learn more about how to keep our bodies healthy and how to avoid what might be unhealthy, including the effects of smoking and alcohol on our bodies.

RE will involve investigating the question 'Who was Jesus really?' This will include covering who Jesus was, how he inspired people and what happened after his death.

Finally Penguins will be learning about how **music** can teach us about our community. This will involve singing songs and learning how to create and play simple melodies.

Lions - Year 5

Key concepts for our curriculum this term are: pride, belief and tradition

We have switched our focus from Vikings to something that they used a lot of: rivers! In **Geography** this term, the class will be focusing on the enquiry question 'What is a river?' This enquiry starts with looking at how a river changes over its course from source to mouth, followed by why certain parts of a river are important, such as estuaries for wildlife and how rivers in general are an important part of the water cycle. We will also look at how rivers have changed over time with a special focus on the Isle of Dogs. Lastly, as we seek to become more globally aware, we will be looking at river flooding in Bangladesh and how this impacts the local people.



For **English**, we will be reading *Oliver Twist*. Children will continue to build up their VIPERS skills, and will work towards writing an informal letter, a story narrative, and an information text.

Maths wise, we will spend time gaining confidence with, and understanding the relationship between decimals, fractions and percentages. We will then move on to calculating area and perimeter. We will finish the term looking at and interpreting graphs and tables.

In **Science** our topic is animals, including humans, through this we will explore the human life cycle, adolescence and puberty and gestation periods and lifespans.

Our **Art** topic is "I need space" - This will allow us to explore the purpose and impact of images from the 'Space race' era of the 1950s and 60s; developing independence and decision-making using open-ended and experimental processes; combining drawing and collagraph printmaking to create a futuristic image.

Netball and Hockey are our **PE** topics this term. Children will learn a variety of techniques for both sports and how the game works and flows.

In **Computing** we will explore the world wide web, we will understand that websites are written in HTML. The children will be able to edit a webpage using images, text and styling.

We have an excellent topic for **PSHE** this term, entitled 'Healthy Me'. This valuable set of lessons which teach children about the dangers and statistics surrounding smoking and alcohol, whilst also covering body image and relationships with food. We will also talk about emergency aid.

For **Music**, children will listen and appraise "The fresh prince of Bel Air" by Will Smith.

In **RE**, we will explore "who should get to be in charge?" We will explore how leadership and authority can impact individuals world views.

Lastly, children will be learning all about the planets in **French!** The aim is to be able to label a map of the solar system and answer questions in order to present themselves as an astronaut.

Dolphins - Year 6

Key concepts for our curriculum this term are: equality, media and strength

Year 6 leave behind History and move on to **Geography** for this term where children will follow the inquiry question of 'Who are Britain's National Parks for?' The enquiry begins with pupils identifying the location and distribution of the 15 National Parks in the United Kingdom and understanding the rationale that underpins them. From this initial national perspective, their investigation moves to looking at Southwest England, which includes more protected land than any other region in England and Wales, and the two National Parks of Exmoor and Dartmoor in particular. Finally pupils are asked to compare National Parks in the United States with those in the United Kingdom,

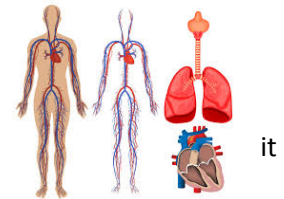


In **English**, children will be focusing on fine tuning their narrative writing skills. Book week will allow us to explore new stories and new creative writing opportunities. Before this, we will open up the term with some suspense writing where children will create mini suspense stories.

Our **Maths** learning will cover new concepts and new content whilst consolidating previous learning. We will look at algebra and in particular number patterns; decimals where we link them to fractions and percentages and then finally area and perimeter which will see us getting outside the classroom for some outside learning.

DT will provide an opportunity for more hands-on learning. The children will be tasked with designing a new playground with new apparatus taking into consideration different structures and how each structure has its own strengths and weaknesses.

RE delves into suffering in the world and inspires children to ask pertinent questions about why religions and faiths touch on this subject and how people of faith react when they are exposed to suffering. Children will learn how to overcome and manage suffering in their own way as well as learning how others manage it.



Science and **PSHE** are closely linked as we will be looking at the human body and how it works along with the animal's circulatory and respiratory systems. We will delve inside our bodies to investigate the heart, lungs and other key organs before comparing our bodies to those of animals. In **PSHE** we look at our healthy choices in life and how to continue to make the right choices when it comes to keeping fit, happy and healthy.

In **Computing**, children will be looking at how phones can be a valuable source of information and data management as well as looking behind the scenes of how phones and IT devices work. They will debug programmes and investigate crypto programming.

PE will be a combination of netball and hockey. In netball we will polish off our skills learnt over the years and put them to practice in mini-games whilst learning the rules, tactics and strategies to attack and defend effectively. In hockey, we will learn how to play the game, the rules, the strategies and the core skills needed to become successful.

MFL (French) is all about Les Habitats (The Habitats). Children will be learning in French, the essential elements that all plants and animals need to survive. The children will learn how to decode and break down unfamiliar language - using their prior knowledge of cognates (words which are similar in French and English).

Finally, in **Music**, Dolphins will be learning through an integrated approach where games, like the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc), singing and playing instruments are all linked. We will be using the classic 'You've got a friend in me' song to engage the children this term.