

# Life in All its Fullness – Come and See



## Year 4

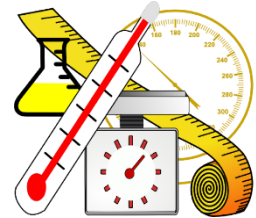
### Autumn 2023 Newsletter



Welcome back to year 4! I sincerely hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer, whatever you got up to. I am really looking forward to welcoming your children back into the new academic year and continuing to work with you and your children in year 4. At the start of each term, we will be sending out a newsletter similar to this one, which will provide an overview of our upcoming learning. I am sure everyone is excited to see what this academic year has in store!

#### Maths

In Maths, we follow the **Herts Essential Maths** scheme, with other supporting resources. Techniques to support learning include use of partner talk, games, investigations and CPA approaches (concrete, pictorial and abstract). In the first term, we focus on the following topics: understanding place value; rounding and estimating; addition and subtraction – mental and written; developing our times tables knowledge to 12 x 12; developing our problem solving skills; multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100; measures – converting and comparing, as well as exploring discrete and continuous data. Additional short **Maths Fluency** sessions will be delivered, to work alongside the main lessons.



#### English

We will be kicking off English, in every class across the school, with a poetry unit. The aim of these units is to immerse the children in rich vocabulary that will inspire them and demonstrate how words can evoke emotion from the reader. Year 4 will start by looking at the book 'Stars with Flaming Tales' by Valerie Bloom. During this sequence, children will have the opportunity to listen to, respond to, and perform a range of poems from this collection. Moving forward, we are currently updating the texts that we teach across the schools and details of these will follow. In addition, the children will have a number of short **spelling** sessions each week based around the Herts Essential Spelling Scheme and also continue to develop their **handwriting** skills.

#### Science

We will start the term exploring **states of matter**. This unit will teach us about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. During Autumn 2, we will focus on the **digestive system in humans and animals and the functions of teeth**. Children will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain. The children will have lots of opportunities to work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate and learn how to present their findings scientifically.



#### Geography/History

We will start with a short Geography unit, looking at 4 figure grid reference. After recapping compass directions, the children will learn how to use grid references to locate features on a map. We will then move on to our Ancient Egypt topic in History. We will find out when and where the Ancient Egyptians lived and place this within the context of previous topics studied. We will investigate what life was like in Ancient Egyptian times, why the Nile was so important, who were the great pharaohs and how/why were pyramids built? Of course, we will also explore the question 'what is mummification and why was this practised?' This wonderful topic provides lots of cross-curricular opportunities.

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## RE

In RE this year, we will continue to follow *The Emmanuel Project* scheme. This term the children will begin by focusing on the religions of Christianity and Islam. We will base our learning on the following questions:

Autumn 1: Why do Muslims call Muhammed the 'seal of the prophets?'

Autumn 2: How does believing Jesus is their saviour inspire Christians to save and serve others?



## Art and DT

Our ART lessons will focus on colour, including colour mixing, tints and tones, blocking with colour, and water colour. This will give the children lots of opportunities to practice their skills. We will of course make cross-curricular links with our History topic where we can.

## PE

PE will be on **Tuesday** and **Friday** afternoons each week. Please ensure that children come to school in their PE kits on those days. This half term we will be developing our passing and shooting in Netball and focusing on bridges in Gymnastics. After half term, we will move onto skills in Tag Rugby and Quick Fire Cricket. Please make sure that clothing is appropriate for all weathers.



## Computing

In the first half term, our unit will be Coding, using the programme '2Code' on Purple Mash. This unit aims to give children the skills needed to make a simple computer programme. In the second half of this term, we will be discussing online safety.

## Music

We are using a new scheme this year and year 4 will start by exploring the song 'This little light of mine.'



## French

We are very fortunate to have the expertise of Mrs Daniell to teach French.



## RHE

Lessons will follow the JIGSAW scheme of work. This term we look at '**Being me in my world**' and '**Celebrating differences**'.

## Further information

Please do make sure your child **reads daily** as much as possible – reading really does underpin so many areas of learning. By the end of Year 4 your child should know multiplication and division facts for **times tables** up to 12 x 12. Whilst we will practise a huge amount in school, it is imperative your child practises at home regularly too to develop speed of recall and fluency. This knowledge really does feed into so many areas of Maths. **Towards the end of the year, the children will sit the new 'Multiplication tables Check'**. Your support, therefore, in encouraging practise of multiplication tables at home would be greatly appreciated. Resources such as the Times Table Rockstars website & the BBC Sport Times Table videos/songs can be fun ways of practising. Homework tasks will generally be set via **Microsoft Teams** on a weekly basis – handed out on a Friday and returned the following Wednesday. These will often be a Maths and spelling activity but may also include other subject areas. Please provide your child with a daily healthy snack for break time and please ensure your child has a **named water bottle** in school each day. As the weather is getting colder and wetter, please do ensure a coat is bought in every day.

We are really looking forward to a fabulous term, with lots of new learning and experiences for the children, celebrating **life in all its fullness**.

Miss Cox and Mr Dean

