

Sheen Mount Primary School



Curriculum Information Bulletin for Year 4 – Autumn Term 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. We are already very pleased with how well the children have settled into their new classrooms and routines. The Year 4 team are all looking forward to a hardworking, productive and fun year ahead. Below is an overview of the children's learning in the autumn term. If you would like to find out more about our Year 4 curriculum, please go to <https://www.sheenmount.richmond.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+3&pid=45>

English

Our English topic is Greek myths to link with our history topic on Ancient Greece. We will immerse ourselves in a range of myths, using these tales to improve our comprehension and writing skills. After half term, we will focus on reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and using it to inspire our creative writing. As we read, we will be focusing on improving our inference skills. The children will have spelling and grammar lessons once a week and they will all be working hard to improve their handwriting. During the year, they will be working towards the goal of earning their pen licence.

Maths

The children will consolidate and extend their understanding of larger numbers. Work will include mental strategies for calculating, whiteboard work, group and paired work, as well as the more formal pencil and paper work. They will be taught various methods for adding and subtracting and relate this to solving money and measure problems. Work will cover place value and multiplication. You can best help your child to improve by encouraging them to apply maths in real life situations, for example finding the correct change while shopping and telling the time. We also expect the children to have learnt all of their times tables (up to 12) by the end of the year. We will assess the progress of their times tables knowledge and their ability to apply it to other parts of the curriculum on a regular basis.

Science

We will begin the year with investigating states of matter. In the second half term we will be learning about electricity. Both topics will involve lots of practical activities which will support the children's enquiry skills.

Humanities

Our main focus for this term in history is how Ancient Greece has influenced modern western society. All relevant resources from home are very welcome in our classrooms! In geography, we will be looking at mountains and using our science knowledge to understand the water cycle.

Computing

Our focus this half term will be on e-safety. The children will also be using chrome books every week for research and presentation purposes.

PE and Games

Our PE lessons will be taught by Mrs Humphreys, Coach Sam from Richmond Lacrosse (additional PE lesson) and Mr Brown. The lessons will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure your child wears their full PE kit to school on these days. The Sheen Mount PE kit is:

- white PE shorts
- colour team t-shirt
- suitable trainers for outside PE
- children can also wear a Sheen Mount hoodie and dark, plain tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE in the winter.

The children will be swimming this half term:

4S – Monday
4BZ- Tuesday
4H – Wednesday

Art and Design Technology

In addition to developing painting skills such as mixing colours, there will be lots of art activities linked to our core learning. We will be exploring the Ancient Greek legacy through sculpture and architecture and will use printing techniques when designing our own Greek vases. When we are studying *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, we will design and make a light up scene from Narnia.

French

In French the children will be learning greetings, numbers and how to introduce themselves. They will also be studying months of the year and seasons as well as Christmas customs in France.

RE

In RE we will continue to study world religions and thereby gain a better understanding of the ways in which people worship. If any parents would like to share celebrations from different cultures and religions then they would be most welcome. This half term we are studying aspects of Hinduism and next half term we will be learning more about the meaning of Christmas to Christians.

Music

In music children will be exploring different types of classical music beginning with Peer Gynt and creating their own compositions. Singing assemblies with Mrs Boa will resume.

PSHE

We will be discussing effective learning, team work, overcoming barriers using the Zones of Regulation tools. We will also continue to develop resilience using the Bounce Back tools. As a whole school we will be looking at the importance of unity.

Soapbox

Each week one or two children will be allocated a time to share something that interests them with the rest of their class. In Year 4 we focus on addressing the audience and looking at them rather than reading from a script. This is to help the children develop their public speaking skills and is intended to raise their self-esteem. They can use props if they wish including photographs, maps or leaflets from places they have visited. The children could also bring in a favourite possession and talk about it or even make their own PowerPoint presentation. Their talk should last no longer than 10 minutes. The rest of the children in the class will then have the opportunity to ask questions about the presentation.

Homework

English (or topic), spelling and maths homework will be set on Thursdays and is due in on Tuesdays. It will be posted on the Year 4 Google Classrooms. You will also find the online reading record with activities to complete weekly for each half term. Please help your child to complete their homework should they need it. It is a tremendous opportunity for them to receive 1:1 support. They should be encouraged to complete their work to a high standard, spending about 20 - 30 minutes on each subject. Additionally, it is a good idea for the children to spend 5 or 10 minutes a day practising the recall of their times table facts.

Reading Homework

It is important that all children read at home every day and that an adult listens to them and discusses their books with them a few times a week. It is also really important for you to continue to read aloud to your child.

Routines

Children can come into their classroom at 8.45am. Registration is taken at 8.55am. At 3:30pm, the children will be ready to be collected from the Year 3 / 4 Playground. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school on a Monday so that they can keep hydrated throughout the week, bottles will be sent home to be cleaned on a Friday.

Uniform

All of the children looked very smart at the beginning of the new term and we would like to see this continue throughout the year! It is a good time for us to remind the children about the school uniform rules which are sometimes forgotten. Shoes or plain black trainers should be worn, no jewellery is permitted and long hair should be tied back for both boys and girls. Socks should be plain white, grey or black and matching. Labelling of uniform and PE kit is essential so that it can be returned if it gets lost. Any unnamed items will be placed in the Lost Property cupboard.

How to help at home

- Developing your child's independence; allow them to pack their own bags for school, taking responsibility for delivering and returning messages to and from school etc.
- Expose them to a range of challenging real life texts to continue to develop their awareness of different genres and to improve their comprehension skills.
- Encourage them to use and apply their maths skills in real life situations, for example when using money in shops, understanding weights and measures when preparing and cooking food.

Kind regards,

The Year 4 team:

Mrs Humphreys, Mrs Sparkes, Mrs Barrington-Haynes and Mrs Zawada

Mrs Kuzmina, Miss Zakiya, Mrs Chaoui, Mr Ricco, Miss Hazell and Mrs Barry