

Science

Within Science, the children will be investigating Electricity!

The sessions will be practical with plenty of discovering through trial and error and discussion. Children will learn about things in the home that use electricity (**you can help by talking about this at home**) then make circuits with equipment, getting a bulb to light, seeing how switches work and what materials are conductors (let electricity flow through them).

Design and Technology

In our Design and Technology lessons, the focus will be on problem solving! We will be looking at inventions that changed the world and as we all know...the Romans created so many things we all take for granted now. The children will have fun researching then making a product that solves a problem. **At home it is always good for children to have time making models with construction materials such as Lego or Knex.**

P.E.

Our outdoor sessions will be focused on team games and the skills needed to play them. Children will have time to learn and practise those skills then apply them in small team games. Our other P.E. focus will be on tennis skills, specifically throwing, catching and striking a ball with increasing accuracy.

Please try to encourage your children to join sports clubs at school as they are always great fun.

PSHCE & R.E.

This half term, the children will be focussing on gospel readings in R.E. lessons, and discussing what we can learn about the kind of world that Jesus wanted. They will be making simple links between Bible texts and the concept of 'Gospel' (good news).

In PSHE, we will continue to follow our Jigsaw scheme and will be working on the Dreams and Goals unit. Children will have the chance to think about their own dreams and goals - shorter and longer term. They will think about what matters to them and what is important in life.

Italy and The Romans Year 4 Spring 1

Music

The children will be learning a new song based on our topic of The Romans, singing in time and in tune while following a set of lyrics. They will then learn about motifs before composing their own motif and performing a combination of these as part of a group.

French

In French lessons the children will learn to talk about family members and begin to write in simple sentences. **To support the children there are a number of great websites and apps, including the BBC schools' website and Duo Lingo.**

History

This half term the children will be learning about Caesar, Claudius and Boudica, and also the changes that the Romans brought to Britain. **At home, you could help your child to research an area of their choice on the internet: the role of women in Roman times, clever Roman roads or amazing Roman buildings. The BBC website is a good source of information on these topics and has some useful videos.**

English

Reading

In Guided Reading sessions, the children will be reading a range of texts and focus particularly on 'Varjak Paw'. They will be encouraged to query new words or re-read parts of a text that are unclear so they learn ways to improve their understanding. **Please read with your child as often as possible – it can have a huge impact on their progress.** The children will continue to focus on fluency in class – challenging them to use volume and intonation to improve their expression when reading.

Writing

Year 4 will be creating a holiday brochure for Italy and as part of their History work, they will write a set of instructions on how to become a Roman soldier. Their final piece of writing will link with their D.T. work and they will be writing a pitch for their product, which they will present in class as part of a group. **Spelling will be a big focus this half term – please ensure your child is practising their spellings regularly and help them to break down sounds by splitting words into syllables so they can spell one part at a time.**

Maths

The children will be required to know all times tables by the summer term in readiness for the Year 4 Multiplication Check, so these will be a key focus. **They will go on TT Rockstars every morning to practise and if you could support this by encouraging your child to practise daily at home this would be a big help. Learning times tables songs from YouTube, online games, chanting or quick fire practice will significantly help your child.**

In our Maths lessons this half term, we will be exploring place value, addition and subtraction and time. They will be converting time between analogue and digital clocks and learning to convert different units of time.

Please help your child at home by encouraging them to convert from hours to minutes, minutes to seconds, years to months and weeks to days.