

Science

Within Science, the children will be investigating the different states of matter. The sessions will be practical with plenty of discovering through trial and error and discussion. Children will learn about comparative and fair tests, how to set up their experiments with rigour and how to make systematic and careful observations and how to record them. They will then look at the best way of presenting their results of their experiments (e.g., whether that might be in a table or a graph or poster etc.).

Design and Technology

It's Restaurant Wars time! As our class country is Italy the chances are we will be making pizza or pasta, though we might try something like gnocchi (or even all of them, who knows?). Whichever way we go we'll be making them from scratch, mixing, stretching, and rolling the dough, designing toppings or sauces and as is traditional, inviting you in to try it – lucky you!

P.E.

We are, of course, continuing with swimming every Wednesday, so please ensure your child has their swimming kit each week. Otherwise on Mondays we will be doing Dance. Children will become their own choreographers and develop a sequence of moves using a range of body shapes e.g., star, pin, twists, tuck, pike and dynamic movements e.g., flight, rotation, travel. We will make constructive suggestions about each other's routines to improve them.

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

French

In French lessons the children will learn to converse and 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.**

Music

This half term Year 4 will be learning how to play the djembe drums. The word djembe comes from the Malian saying, "Anke djé, anke bé" which means "everyone gather together in peace." How much peace there will be once the drums start playing is up for debate, but I'm sure they'll enjoy it.

History

This half term the children will be learning about the Romans. We will look at the extent and longevity of the Roman Empire, its technological advancements and the Romans impact on Britain. Hopefully we will be going to Fishbourne Roman Villa to see first-hand evidence of the Roman occupation (more details on that will be coming closer to the time).

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 a range of topics: place value, multiplication and division, fractions, statistics, and length and perimeter.

Homework will continue to be set in the green, White Rose Maths books they have been bringing home and which has been working well.