



Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to outline some of the main points covered in the curriculum meeting for Year Four parents.

Handwriting/Spelling

The children have three handwriting sessions each week linked to the learning of spelling rules and patterns. We try to teach that handwriting should not just be the best it can in handwriting sessions but in all of children's work.

Literacy

The Literacy units focus on a range of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays. The units are related to events or topics being covered at the time, such as stories with historical settings, to make the children's work as relevant and purposeful as possible. Links are made with spelling, handwriting, word definitions, new vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. Thursday mornings are extended writing sessions relating to the current topic, where the children can put everything they have learnt into practice and work on their planning skills.

Literacy also brings opportunities for speaking and listening activities and drama work. Children may, for example, become a character from a text and answer questions whilst in that role.

Maths

Maths lessons are two sessions a day. There is a shorter, twenty minute maths session which is based on mental maths. In this lesson, the children practice skills such as quick fire addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, halving and doubling etc. We do this through a variety of games and challenges. During the second session the children may work as individuals, in pairs or in groups. They cover all areas of maths during the year - understanding number, calculations, problem solving, fractions and decimals, measure, data handling and space and shape.

Times tables are a vital part of maths in Year 4. Please help your child learn them, it will really help. Children who do not know their tables often understand a method of how to solve a calculation, but then become stuck because they do not know the answer as they do not know their times tables facts.

Science

Science will be carried out through a number of investigations and experiments. Children will be given the chance to set up, explore and adapt their own tests/experiments. They will be learning about fair testing and making predictions, giving reasons why they think things to be true.

Autumn Term topics

- Sound-We will be finding patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it, finding patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it and recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.
- Electricity- we will identify common appliances that run on electricity, construct a simple series of electrical circuits identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers. We will explore how switches can affect a circuit, conducting a series of experiments with lamps.

Tel: 01643 821254 Fax: 01643 821243 dunsterfirstschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk www.dunsterfirstschool.org.uk

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX



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Spring Term topics

States of Matter - we will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. We will observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C). We will identify the parts played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle. We will conduct an experiment to associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Summer Term topics

Living things and their habitats - Children will recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways explore and use classification keys to help group, Children will be able to identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environments, recognising that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. We conduct some of this work whilst at Pinkery.

Animals including humans- Children will describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans, identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions, construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers and predators.

History

Autumn Terms topic

- Roman Britain- We will learn about whom the Romans were and why they came to Britain. Children will learn about opposition to the Roman arrival and conquest. They will learn about the way of life of the Britons at the time and how this changed under Roman occupation. They will also learn of what happened when the Romans left and the legacy they left behind them.

Summer Term topic

- Ancient Egyptians - the children will find out about clothing, mummification, the afterlife, Gods and hieroglyphics. They will learn about Egyptian ways of life including the importance of the River Nile.

Geography

Spring Term topic-During the Spring Term, children will be learning about France, the physical geography of France and comparing it to England. They will also be learning geographical skills such as map reading.

Summer Term topic

This terms geography will focus on the physical aspects of geography, building on the skills learnt last term. We shall be using our local environment a lot to help us with this.

Art

Autumn Term topic

- Portraying Relationships in which the children will be learning how to draw people. We will use manikins to help get the body proportions accurate. The children will produce a final piece of work which shows the relationships between two people.

Spring Term topic

- Identity Boxes - children will create their own 'identity box'. They will be set a challenge to fill a shoe box, that when opens will represent their 'identity'. They will have to use a variety of different skills to do this and of course their imagination.

Summer Term topic

- Pinkery Art Competition - the children will use a range of materials - water colours, charcoal, pastels, pencils etc. to create a picture from the trip. The winning pieces will go to Webber's Estate agents where members of the public will vote for their winner.
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- Journeys - where they will be using different materials to create a journey. This unit will have a strong link to the outdoors.

Design and Technology

Autumn Term topic

- Bread - the children will work in small groups to design, make and evaluate their own loaf after sampling a range of bread and identifying how it is made.

Spring Term topic

- Sewing-Children will learn a variety of stitches in order to make their own 'Pinkery Pure' which can be used to hold their money for the Pinkery visit.

Summer Term topic

- Following on from our electricity work, the children will have to design, make, test and evaluate an electrical alarm system to deter intruders from breaking into a pyramid.

Music

Autumn- Exploring rhythmic patterns/Exploring arrangements. Children will be looking at patterns in music and creating their own rhythmic patterns.

Composer - Vivaldi

Spring- Exploring melodies and scales/Exploring sound colours

Composer - Vivaldi/ Bach

Summer- Exploring signals/Exploring descriptive sounds.

Composer - Bach

During this time they will listen to a variety of music, be taught basic notes and will compose simple tunes and pieces using basic notation and percussion instruments. They also have recorder lessons with Mrs Fletcher on a Friday-**don't forget recorders and music on Friday please!**

Computing

Autumn term - comics

Children build on programming skills from last year. They create simple games using an app (Hopscotch) on the ipad. During this time they test their games and correct any errors in the algorithm used for the game.

Spring Term - Games and information

Children will use a variety of tools to create a program. They will consider how to use a procedure to first simplify a program as well as learn to recognise that an algorithm will help to sequence more complex programs. During this unit the children will create an etch a sketch type of game; build a racing card game and adapt a variety of other games to meet specific requirements.

Summer Term - Becoming a designer

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During this final unit of work the children will plan an algorithm for a game. They will program objects within the game using variables in order to fulfil a particular challenge. They will continue to test their games and correct errors.

Within all three units of work the children will be taught about the importance of e-safety.

Physical Education

The whole of Tuesday afternoon is devoted to P.E.

Autumn Term-In the Autumn Term children will be taking part in Outdoor and Adventurous Activity. This will comprise of a number of challenges the children will have to face in small teams or pairs. Team work is the key to succeeding! This will take place in the school hall, field and the Moorland Edge Forest.

In Dance, children will learn to develop pathways, gesture, speed and levels, as we explore how to perform to a variety of stimuli, including music and the Romans!

Spring Term-

In Gymnastics they will be exploring balance and flight, pathways, rolling etc. The activities will take place on the floor as well as work on various pieces of simple apparatus.

Invasion Games-This term we will be focussing on two invasion games-rugby and football. The children will learn handling and ball control skills as well as setting up small sided games and developing tactics.

Summer Term-cricket, athletics and swimming.

In cricket, children will learn how to send and receive the ball, strike the ball away from the opposing team and learn how to create tactics as a team to win a small sided game.

Athletics will focus on improving techniques of running and throwing. We will develop these skills to help with sports day and the area sports.

Children will be able to build on their swimming techniques in this term in the pool outside, led by Mr Hoyland.

Religious Education

In the Autumn and Spring Terms the children will be learning what it is like to be a Christian - including belonging, belief and identity. They will also be learning about the life and teaching of Jesus. In the Summer Term they will discover what it is like to be a Jew.

SEAL

Our SEAL topics this year are:

Autumn-

New Beginnings, Getting on and Falling Out

Spring-

Good to Be Me and Going For Goals

Summer-

Relationships and Changes

French

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During French, over the course of the year, children will be building on the basic conversational vocabulary learnt last year.

They will be learning to talk about where they live, how to ask for directions and give responses and learning key vocabulary for places around the town.

During the Spring Term, children will be learning to talk about the weather, vocabulary to do with time, including how to ask the time and give a response.

Over the course of the final term, children will be learning about mealtimes, their favourite lessons and clothing.

Clubs

Over the year the children in Year Four have the opportunity to participate in many after school clubs.

- Tennis Club - Wednesday.
- Football Club and Friday Football up to Spring Half Term.
- Catchball Club and Friday Catchball for the second half of the Spring Term and part of the Summer Term.
- Drawing Club-Tuesday after school
- Film Club on Thursdays after school.
- Cricket Club and Friday Cricket in the second half of the Summer Term.

Pinkery

The children in Year Four participate in a three day residential trip to Pinkery. Further details will be given nearer the time.

Bannerman Road Primary School

Over the last four years, Year 4 have set up a link with Bannerman Road Primary School, Bristol. This link will continue this year. We will write letters to each other and visit them in the spring term. They will do a return visit to us in the summer. This has been a wonderful experience for all concerned and the children from both schools get a lot out of it!

Attendance

Good attendance is vital if your child is going to make the most progress possible. Please inform the school if your child will not be attending school for any reason. Unauthorised absence will be noted and kept on your child's record.

Medical Information

Please inform the school if your child has any short or long term medical needs such as food allergies or asthma. Please also inform us of any changes of contact details, such as mobile phone numbers.

Finally

We encourage children in Year Four to be particularly responsible and reliable. They carry out important jobs around the school as well as in the classroom.

We aim to develop the children as motivated and enthusiastic learners. If you have any concerns about your child or would just like to chat to see how things are going please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Yours sincerely

Paul James