



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning

Academic Year 2014-2015

- **Year:** 4
- **Term:** 1

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mr I Smith
- Mrs L Miller
- Miss J Pendlebury

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first curriculum overview of the new school year. The purpose of the overview is to let you know what the children will be learning this term and set out some of the ways in which you can support them at home.

New learning is fragile and needs time to embed so that it is not lost. It is important that children receive the right kind of support in school and at home. This is why we set homework tasks with the aim of supporting and extending your child's new learning. Expectations regarding homework are therefore also shared in the overview along with suggestions for supporting children at home.

It is very important that all homework is at least attempted at home. If you have a child who does not understand something set for homework, then the homework has done its job. Please ask your child to do as much as he/she can honestly manage, offer reassurance and notify the relevant teacher the next day who will then follow it up with all the help and encouragement that that your child requires. Please do not force your child to carry on if he/she really does not understand, as this can be negative.

We know that methods of teaching and learning change over the years and so we are **always** happy to explain them to you if you have a question or are not sure about something. We are also happy to arrange parent/carer workshops or even support you on a one-to-one basis if you would find this helpful. Please speak to your child's teacher in confidence if you would like some support.

During our first term the children start a new theme called 'The Way We Were'. If you can support us because you have a skill, specialist knowledge; a real-life experiences to share; or useful contacts, please speak to your child's teacher. All offers of help are welcomed and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

Homework

Children will be given homework on a Friday and this will be expected to be completed by the following Friday.

The homework will be:

- 'My Maths' homework differentiated at the correct level for your child
- 'Bug Club' for reading homework
- spellings
- cross-curricular theme-related homework at various other times

There is a daily Homework Club at lunchtime from 12.30pm in the Year 6 classroom which is run by Mrs Miller supported by some of the older children. At the club pupils can ask for support from her or her team of helpers. Pupils attending the club also have access to the library, computers and other technology as well resources not necessarily available at home. Every child is welcome to attend.

RE

Please see the attached 'Come and See' letter for more information about the RE themes this term.



English: Basic Skills – Reading, Phonics, Spelling and Handwriting

Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar & Handwriting

All children will benefit from having regular handwriting and spelling practise and regular grammar and punctuation sessions focused on meeting their *individual* needs.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *supporting them to learn their weekly spellings*
- *talking about their targets for writing (please refer to the interim reports)*

Book Study

This term the children will be undertaking guided. This involves reading a book of high quality and interest in small groups. The children will then undertake a series of comprehension questions to support their understanding of a wide range of texts.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *reading your child's reading books with them for a few minutes every day (as well as other books) together*
- *encouraging your child to read a wider range of more challenging books in order to widen their experience*
- *talking about their targets for reading (as shared on their record sheet from parents evening)*

Mathematics: Daily Number & Calculation Skills

This term we will be focusing on transitioning from Y3 maths to the new curriculum and Y4 maths teaching. We will be looking at this term:

- mental calculation strategies
- place value
- more formal calculation methods

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *adding, subtracting and multiplying two digit numbers*
- *talking about numbers and what each digit means*

Theme 3: The Way we Were

Our wider curriculum focus this term will continue to be the whole-school theme: 'The Way We Were'. All of our art, Geography, D.T. and science will be covered through this topic. The children will also undertake a one week International project: the Year 4 children will be looking at South America.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *looking at an atlas and the countries which make up South America*
- *researching the historic period from the 'Stone Age' to the 'Iron Age'*

English: Creative Writing within the Theme

During this theme the children will be making their own decisions on the genre of writing they will focus on. Outside of the theme children will be undertaking descriptive writing about characters & settings in story writing. The children will undertake report writing in our science lessons.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *looking at various types of writing such as: stories, reports, poems and other non-fiction writing*

Science within the Theme

We will be investigating changes of state of materials.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *thinking about how materials change state*
- *investigating what the three states of matter are*
- *exploring how ice can be changed into a liquid state*



History within the Theme

We will investigate the period of British history from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *looking for information about the three historical periods: Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages*
- *investigating how people may have lived during this time*
- *exploring cave paintings through internet research*

Music

Music is taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher and there will be a focus on preparing for the leavers' concert and Mass. We will also be using musical instruments to accompany poems and stories in order to enhance impact.

Computing

Your child will be learning about programming and will construct their own computer game.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *looking at how games operate*
- *thinking about the ways games are designed to grab people's interest and 'pull' them into play them*

PE

This term the children will focus on Swimming and Real PE.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *asking them about their lessons and what they have learned*
- *practising the skills learned in school*