



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

*Sharing our learning*

## Academic Year 2013-2014

- Year: 4
- Term: 3

## Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs D Evans
- Miss C Kiernan
- Mr Hawley
- Mrs Dewsnap

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term we are piloting our new curriculum. Instead of individual termly topics in each year group we now have whole-school 'Themes' and our first pilot theme is called 'Marvellous Machines'.

This is our third curriculum overview of the year and the aim is to provide you with information about what your children will be learning along with tips for supporting them at home. We are also arranging parent/carer workshops for **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** to explain the calculation strategies used to teach and learn the four rules of number (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Further details will follow in due course.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or if you require any support yourself please let us know. We would also like to hear from you if you feel able to support us in any way – especially if you have an interest or expertise in anything being covered during this theme. At the end of the theme we intend to have a whole-school exhibition - to which you will all be invited - so we can share what we have done and celebrate all the children have learned, achieved and enjoyed.

I would also welcome your thoughts and feedback either throughout the theme or via a questionnaire I will send home at the end of the theme. Thank you for your continued support; it really is appreciated by us all.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

## R.E. Topic 1: Local Church - Community

Children will be learning about the place of the church within the community and the ways in which we celebrate together. They will also be learning about the different roles lay members of the church are called to, and about the funeral rite.

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

- *Talking about the different roles for lay people within the church.*
- *Discussing the place the church has in the community and what it means to you.*
- *Thinking together about how different people help to make up the church community.*

## R.E. Topic 2: Eucharist – Relating: Giving and Receiving

Children will be learning about the introductory, communion and concluding rites of the mass, focussing on the place of giving and receiving within them.

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

- *Talking about the different aspects of the mass (communion rite, penitential act etc), how they are different, and their meanings.*
- *Discussing what attending mass means to you.*
- *Thinking together about why each part of the mass is important.*

## English: Daily Reading & Phonics Skills

### **Read Write Inc Sessions**

Children on the Read Write Inc programme will continue to have daily sessions with their group aimed at developing confidence with phonics, reading and writing. Children are assessed regularly to ensure that they are in the right group. If you would like more information about the programme please let us know.





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## **Guided Reading and Spelling**

All children no longer involved in the Read Write Inc programme will have daily reading and spelling activities to boost their levels of confidence and enjoyment as well as their comprehension skills.

### **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 enjoying all sorts of other books and reading materials together.
- Supporting your child to learn and practise their weekly spellings

## **English: Basic Skills**

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

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

- Talking to your child about what their specific writing targets are and helping them to think about them whenever they write.
- Showing your child that writing is a part of daily life, talk about what you have had to write today!

## **Mathematics: Daily Number & Calculation Skills**

We will focus on:

- Mental and written methods for addition and subtraction and applying these in problems
- Counting forwards and backwards in different multiples, including fractional numbers
- Multiplication and division and applying these in problems
- Recognising and using fractions

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

- Learning and practising times tables – we will be doing weekly tests and send home the times table each child is currently working on.
- Working on the specific mathematics targets on your child's PAM sheet.

## **Theme 1 Introduction: Marvellous Machines**

During our first Theme the children will explore different machines and inventions, and investigate the history of the steel industry in Sheffield. The theme will consist of cross-curricular lessons and separate modules to ensure that everything is covered and so that deep learning can take place.

## **English: Creative Writing**

Children will be writing explanations about imaginary machines and using persuasive writing to advertise them. We will be creating poetry based on machines and writing from the point of view of someone working in a steel factory.

## **Mathematics within the Theme**

We will focus on:

- Measures, including perimeter and area
- 3D shape – names and properties

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

- Noticing different units of measure in everyday life, e.g. grams and kilograms, metres, kilometres, miles etc.
- Looking out for different 3D shapes





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## Science

We will be using and extending the learning about electricity we did in term 2 in order to create moving models.

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

- Talking about how different moving 'machines' work (e.g. clocks, bicycles, electric fans).
- Discussing how to use electricity safely, and the impact it has on our lives.

## Geography/History

This term we focus on a regional study of our local area and a study of local history, including Sheffield's importance in the history of the steel industry.

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

- Discussing different features of the local environment.
- Talking about similarities and differences between Sheffield/Yorkshire and other cities/counties in the UK.
- Investigating the history of the steel industry in Sheffield.

## Art and Design & Technology

In art we will focus on drawing and large scale painting. In design and technology we will be focussing on designing and making moving models using gears and motors.

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

- Finding out more about different types of drawing and painting.
- Researching about the life and work of Heath Robinson.

## P.E.

P.E. is on Tuesday afternoon each week. Sessions are led by specialist P.E. coaches. This term they will cover dance and handball.

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

- Doing lots of physical activity regularly e.g. playing games in the garden, going to the park, swimming lessons.
- Investigating different types of modern and traditional dance.
- Finding out about the rules of handball and using the internet responsibly to search for film of a handball match to see how it should be played.

## Music

Music will be taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher. Our module this term is called 'Dragon Scales' and we will be learning more about pitch, singing various songs and using glockenspiels to play them.

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

- Asking your child to sing songs to you and talk about music lessons. (Music is on Friday each week).

