

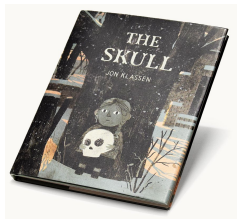
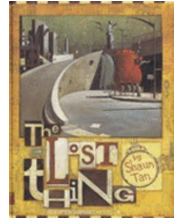
Amethyst Class Curriculum Letter

Autumn 2023

Welcome to Year 4! We are looking forward to getting to know Amethyst Class and are very excited to start this academic year together.

English

In English this term, we will be writing character descriptions with a focus on developing depth to our characters through carefully chosen vocabulary to show, instead of tell, about the characters emotions. We will be using the story *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan as the inspiration for our writing. In the latter part of this half term, we will move on to writing Non-Chronological Reports based on our current and previous learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Romans in History.

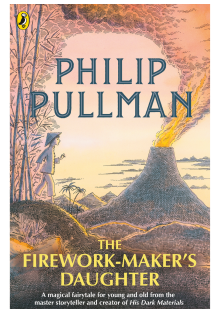


After half term, we will be writing setting descriptions based on *The Skull* by Jon Klassen; as well as making carefully considered vocabulary choices, we will be looking at extending our sentences with subordinate clauses and varying our sentence structures. We will then move onto explanation texts; inspired by Wallace and Grommit and their amazing contraptions. We will focus on writing in a logical order and varying our sentence structure..

Reading



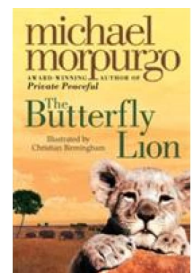
Our Guided Reading lessons are underpinned by the teaching of Reading VIPERS skills (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval, Sequencing and Summarising.) We will teach these skills through carefully planned reading lessons using a range of high quality texts. This half term during Guided reading, we will be reading *The Ironman* by Ted Hughes and after half term, we will be studying the *Firework-Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman. During our guided reading lessons through the year, we will not



only be continuing to develop our ability to discuss texts using the VIPERS skills but will also focus on word-reading, fluency and developing our understanding of fiction genres.



We also hope to encourage a real love of reading and an enjoyment of reading for pleasure through Year 4. As our class story this half term, we will be reading *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo and after half term we will be reading the *Railway Children* by E. Nesbit. Both these stories are high quality stories by authors recommended on our Age 7-11 Reading Passports. (Our Recommended Reads from our Reading Passports can be found on the School Website and our class Google Classroom Page)



Maths

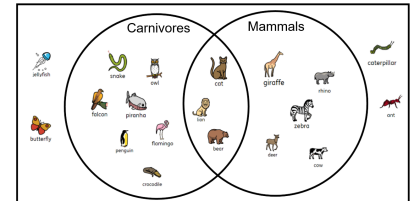
We will be starting our year's maths learning with place value. A strong understanding of number and place value is vital to all areas of maths. We will begin by partitioning, reading and representing numbers to 10,000 then focusing on finding 1, 10, 100 and 1,000 more or less than a given number. After this, we will look at estimating using number lines and comparing and ordering numbers to 10,000. We will be then exploring rounding 3 and 4 digit numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. After this, we will then move onto Addition and Subtraction. We will be building on both our understanding of Place Value and our prior learning of Addition and Subtraction in Year 3. We will be using both mental and written methods to practise adding and subtracting 4 digit numbers. We will also be solving missing number problems and

using inverse operation to check that our workings are correct. Additionally we will use our rounding skills to estimate answers.

After half term, we will move on to studying Area. We will establish an understanding of what area is and find areas of shapes through both counting squares and multiplying lengths of sides. We will then move onto Multiplication and Division. We will begin by learning our multiplication and division facts for our 6, 7 and 9, 11 and 12 times tables. A strong understanding of our times tables and the ability to recall multiplication and division facts with speed is essential in all areas of Maths. As a result, continued practice of multiplication and division at home will be of great help.

Science

In Science this term, our topic is Living Things and Their Habitats. We will be exploring how we can categorise and group living things in a variety of ways by considering different characteristics. We will learn to use classification keys, venn diagrams and carroll diagrams to group animals scientifically according to their habitats and characteristics. We will then go on to consider how environmental changes can affect habitats and consequently pose dangers to living things. We will pay close consideration to changes in our own local habitats and identify dangers posed to local wildlife. As well as considering the negative impact of humans on living things and habitats in our local area, we will also consider positive aspects of human impact too.

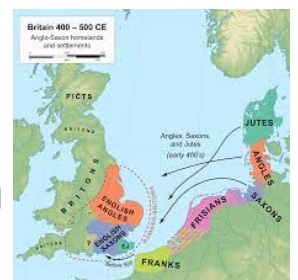


After half term, we will move on exploring States of Matter in Science. We will learn about the various properties of solids, liquids and gases and will compare and group materials based on their state of matter. We will investigate how heating and cooling can change a material's state of matter and measure the temperature at which these changes of state occur. In addition to this, we will explore the role of condensation and evaporation in the water cycle and consider the relationship between evaporation and temperature.

Humanities

History

This term, our History topic is Anglo-Saxons and the Scots. We will be learning about who the Anglo-Saxons and the Scots were, where they came from as well as when and why they came to settle in Britain. We will be considering how life in Britain changed as a result of the Anglo-Saxon and Scots occupation and considering similarities and differences between life in Britain under Anglo-Saxon and Roman occupation. In addition to this, we will analyse historical evidence and artefacts to aid us in making claims and gaining an understanding about life and culture in Anglo-Saxon Britain. We will then explore how life in Britain has been shaped by the Anglo-Saxon paying close attention to culture, society and religion.



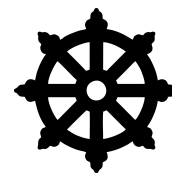
Geography

After half term, we will be learning about rivers and the water cycle in our Geography lessons. We will learn about what the water cycle is and how it works and will develop our understanding from science of evaporation and condensation and the roles they play in the water cycle. We will learn about the different parts of a river and consider flooding and erosion. We will also learn about the importance of water, how it is stored and treated so that it is safe to drink. Finally, we will learn how important it is to protect our rivers and water systems.



Religious Education (RE)

This half term, we will be learning about Buddhism during our RE lessons. We will be considering where and how Buddhism originated and learning about the eightfold plan. We will also be considering what happiness is, what causes happiness and whether it is possible for everyone to be happy.



After October half term, we will be learning about Christianity and what it is like for Christians to follow God. We will explore symbolism at Christmas and consider that different symbols symbolise Christmas differently to different people. We will consider what Christmas means to us as individuals and how this compares to what Christmas means to Christians. We will also discuss which parts of the Nativity Story are most significant to Christians in the modern day.

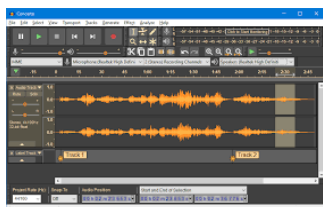


Computing

In computing this term, we will be learning about computer systems, networks and the internet. We will be learning about how the internet is structured as well as learning to understand the components and uses of digital devices. We will also be learning about how ownership works on the internet and why this is important when uploading photos or personal information. We will also learn about the importance of understanding that not everything on the internet is factually correct.



For our E-Safety this term, we will be focusing on self image and identity. We will consider what is meant by the term 'identity' and explain how people can represent themselves in different ways online.



After Half term, we will be learning about audio editing using digital software. We will use different digital devices to record sound and learn about how recorded sounds are stored as digital files. We will explore how that audio can be altered through editing. We will combine different types of audio and layer these so that they can be played in unison. We will also make thoughtful decisions and regarding our editing choices thinking carefully about sound and composition



Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

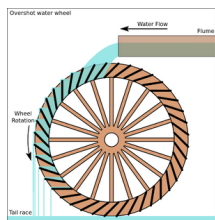
Spanish - This term, we will be learning Spanish during our MFL lessons; our topic is 'La Clase' (the classroom). We will be learning how to say whether or not we have different stationery items in our pencil cases or not. We will be working on our memory and retention of new vocabulary as well as completing speaking, listening, reading and writing tasks within our spanish lessons.



French - After half term we will be learning French during MFL lessons. We will learn how to say a variety of animals in French using the correct article/ determiner. We will also learn how to build our own first person sentences using the vocabulary we have learnt.

Design and Technology (D&T) and Art

Art - This half term we will be focusing on the medium of sketching during our art lessons. We will be building up to sketching our own self portraits in the style of Frida Kahlo. We will be experimenting with different grades of pencil as well as other implements to draw different forms and shapes. We will then be making careful considerations when choosing our pencil grades. During this term, we will be working on adding fine detail and drawing with correct proportions whilst also beginning to add tone and depth to our work.



DT - In DT after half term, we will be researching, designing our own working water wheels. After designing our water wheels, we will be selecting appropriate tools and materials to construct our water wheels ensuring they are fully functionable. After making and testing our water wheels, we will evaluate our products against our initial design criteria and consider how we could further improve our water wheels if we were to make them again.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education

We start this term by learning what personal identity means and how our ethnicity, family, faith and culture contribute to ‘what makes me unique’. We will celebrate our differences by sharing our likes, dislikes, hobbies and skills. We will be learning about the different groups that make up our community and how to challenge discrimination. After half term, we will be learning about positive relationships and the importance of trust, respect and kindness. We will also learn how to seek help if we are feeling unhappy or unsafe.

PE (Physical Education)

As part of our outdoor PE curriculum this term, we will be learning invasion games (Tag Rugby, Football and Netball) with Mr Fisher. We will be going through all the technical passages of play and learning how to work as a team. Our challenge will be to find new ways of overcoming our opponents and we will start to learn basic tactical information. For indoor PE, we will learn Dance and Gymnastics with Mrs Grindley. In Dance, we will work as a class and create a routine, understanding timings and rhythm, following a beat and synchronising movements. Our gymnastics lessons will focus on mastering basic movements and routines, creating fluidity with our movement and sequences.



Home Learning

In Year Four, home learning will consist of Reading, Times Tables, Spelling and an additional weekly task (either English or Maths). Home learning tasks will be set on Google Classroom but paper copies of homework will also always be available from the classroom. Homework can always be completed either online or in homework books. The children's google log-ins will remain the same as last year.

Reading at Home

Children will continue to bring home a book from the Reading Scheme (if appropriate) or a book from our KS2 Reading Passports. Children will also be able to choose an additional library book to bring home also.

We expect children to be reading aloud at home on a daily basis. Please record your child's reading on Boom Reader when they read at home. If your child is reading to themselves, they are also able to record this on Boom Reader through the student app. As well as helping your child with fluency, expression and word reading, it is important to discuss the text with your child to check their comprehension and understanding. There are some reading prompt questions available on our class google classroom page to support you with this at home.

Times Tables

Speedy recall of multiplication and division facts is of great value to many areas of maths and having the ability to retrieve these facts quickly will really support your child with their maths as they move further up the school. In addition to this, all Year 4 children will undertake the national times table test later in the year. To support your child in learning their Times Tables, please help them to practise daily. Using TimesTables Rockstars is highly beneficial for the learning and practising of multiplication and division facts. 10 minutes of daily practice on TTR*s will help to improve the speed and accuracy of their recall.

Spelling

In year 4, the children will have weekly spelling words to learn for a weekly spelling test.

New Spellings set on Friday

Spelling homework due by Wednesday

Spelling Tests on Friday

English and Maths homework

Children will have either a piece of English or maths homework set on a weekly basis. This homework will be set via google classroom.

New homework set on Friday

Homework due in by Wednesday

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Cosser and Mrs Grindley