

General Reminders

- If your child is absent from school for any reason, please telephone us (01442 252972) on the first day of absence. If you do not notify us the absence will be unauthorised.
- Please make sure that you advise the School Office promptly of any changes of address, telephone numbers, emergency contacts etc.
- Please ensure your child is on the playground at 8.40 a.m. to ensure a prompt start to the school day. KS2 parents are asked to leave the playground at this time.
- If you need to speak to me, or see one of the Office staff, **please use the main entrance**, not the fire door at the end of the corridor outside our classroom. If you want a quick word, I will be on the playground at the end of each day apart from Thursdays. Mrs Hobbs will be teaching the class on Thursday afternoons. Thank you.
- Pupils should not be absent from school for any reason other than illness. If, however, you need to take your child out of school due to EXCEPTIONAL circumstances, a request form must be completed. These are available from the School Office. Mrs Washford Mower will consider requests on an individual basis on behalf of the Governing Body.
- All children should bring water bottles to school with them each day.
- Remember to check our website for latest news, photographs and other information.
www.nashmills.herts.sch.uk

Nash Mills C of E Primary School



Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term 2019

Teacher: Mrs Ofosu

Year 4 Topics

The Vikings Are Coming!

In the first half of this term, we will be learning about the Vikings. We will be looking at the effect of Viking raids and settlement on Britain and also to describe everyday life in a Viking settlement.

All Around the World!

In the second half of the term, the children will learn all about the world around us. This topic allows children to take a closer look at where the countries of the world are located, and some of the ways geographers describe locations. Children will learn to locate and describe places using longitude and latitude, and find out about some of the important lines that delineate specific areas of the Earth – the Equator, the Hemisphere, the Poles and the Tropics. Finally, by looking more closely at the lines of longitude, children will develop their understanding of time zones.

English

Reading

Reading is a vital part of the curriculum. Pupils read in small groups with an adult at least once a week. In addition, they may read to a parent volunteer. Please read with your child for ten – fifteen minutes every evening and record this in their Reading Record. They can choose a library book and will be able to change these at lunchtimes. Please discuss illustrations and discuss the plot, as these skills will help your child to write their own stories. Please speak to me if you would like any further advice.

Writing

Our foci this term are story settings, persuasion text, narrative poetry and cinquains.

Spelling

We will continue to follow the RWIC 'Get Spelling' programme. The focus will shift from the traditional weekly spelling test to daily teaching and child-orientated activities with the aim of teaching spelling, rather than just assessing it. Your child will bring home a spelling log. Children can collect words that they find difficult as well as words that fit the spelling pattern/rule of the week. Children will be tested on a random selection of words that fit the previous spelling rules on a regular but not weekly basis. The best way to support your child will be to regularly check their spelling log and help them to learn the words they have been exploring in class.

Maths

Maths concepts and skills are introduced and revised throughout the year. This term we are focusing on several aspects of maths as follows:

Number

Place value, ordering and rounding
Properties of number and number sequences
Fractions, decimals and percentages
Ratio and proportion

Calculation

Rapid recall of addition and subtraction facts
Understanding addition and subtraction
Rapid recall of multiplication and division facts
Mental strategies and paper procedures for recording answers
Checking results of calculations

Solving Problems

Reason and generalise about numbers and shapes
Making decisions (choose and use appropriate operations to solve problems)

Measure, shape and space

Measure	know and use the relationships between familiar units of length, mass and capacity
Shape	know all regular and irregular shape names and their properties – faces, edges, vertices, symmetry
Space	co – ordinates and directions

Handling Data

Present and interpret data in tables, charts and simple graphs

Please continue to practise times tables everyday with your child including division facts, as these are vital for all areas of mathematical development. Written tests will be done on Fridays.

Helping your child at home

Please continue to practise times tables with your child, as this is vital to their development in all areas of Mathematics. Ask your child to test you to help their recall. The order children should learn these in are as follows: 2, 5, 10, 3, 4, 6, 8, 7, 9, 11 and 12.

Encourage your children to use their spellings in a sentence and tell you the meaning of the word.

Encourage your child to read newspapers or magazine articles that might interest them – sports column, joke pages or about local event.

Use a map of the world and ask your child to find places you have visited on holiday, or to find places that have been mentioned in the news.

Encourage your child to research the life of one of the ancient Egyptian pharaohs or queens.

Ask your child to add up the cost of a few items when shopping.

Cook together; let your child weigh or estimate how much rice/pasta to boil and use a clock to calculate the time it will take to cook.

Practise using the key vocabulary so that your child can use it in correct context, knowing its meaning.

Encourage your child to use Mathletics as often as possible. Comment in the Planner *regularly*. Your comments really help me to pitch the work at an appropriate level. Thank you.

Science

The children will be taught to build on their existing knowledge of states of matter and the water cycle. Pupils should explore a variety of everyday materials and develop simple descriptions of the states of matter (solids hold their shape; liquids form a pool not a pile; gases escape from an unsealed container). Pupils will observe water as a solid, a liquid and a gas and will note the changes to water when it is heated or cooled. Throughout this unit of work, practical investigation will form a key part of the learning.

After half term we will be looking Teeth and Digestive system. Pupils will describe the simple functions of the parts of the digestive system in humans. The children will also identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions. They will construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

Children will be encouraged to make predictions, carry out a fair test, make careful measurements through observation, draw conclusions and explain them using scientific knowledge and understanding. Please look at the key vocabulary and help them to use it correctly.

Religious Education

In the first half of the term, the children will be looking at Symbolism and why it is important in Religion. They will explore such questions as what are symbols and what do they mean and what is the difference between a sign and a symbol? After half term, the children will be looking at Ethics and Moral Issues.

Personal, Social and Health Education

The children will explore how to set personal goals and consider how they can achieve these.

Key vocabulary

You can help your child by discussing core vocabulary which will be encountered each term to help build confidence and familiarity.

English

Simile	metaphor
Hyperbole	personification
Verb	adjective
Adverb	fronted adverbial
Suffix	prefix
Expanded noun phrase	

Opinion	fact
Alliteration	repetition
Rhetorical question	
Statistics	
Emotive language	

Maths

multiple	fraction
Sequence	numerator
Predict	denominator
Factor	equivalent
Pattern	tenth
Relationship	hundredth
Positive	negative
Rule	sum
Total	estimate
Alternate	square

Science

Change	matter
Gas	melt
Heat	solid
Ice	steam
Liquid	temperature

Digestion	Incisors
Canines	Premolars
Molars	Herbivores
Carnivores	Omnivores
Habitat	Predator
Food web	Food chain
Classification	

Other

Time zone
Longitude
Latitude
Equator
Hemisphere
Tropics

Physical Education

In the first half of the term, the children will identify and use different body parts to balance on and know which combinations produce the most stable balances in gymnastics.

After half term, the children will be learning new skills for tennis and hockey. PE will take place on Mondays and Fridays, however PE kit should be kept in school all week.

Design and Technology

Our topic will be 'Lighting it Up'. The children will be taught how to make a simple circuit, incorporating a battery, light bulb, different switches and connecting wires in a safe manner. They will use their knowledge and designs to construct a working model light for a specific purpose.

Art

After half term, the theme of our work will be indigenous Australian art. The children will learn a little about who the Australian Aboriginals are, their symbols and what and how they paint.

French

This term the children will develop and build on their existing knowledge of the French language, particularly in terms of oral development. They will develop their confidence in speaking French as well as their understanding of languages and how they work. Our focus will be on our family and months of the year.

Music

The children will be following the Music Express scheme of work throughout the term.

Computing

This term, the children will learn how to design, write and debug programmes on Scratch. They will use programming languages which are made up of commands and learn how to join the commands together.

After half term, we will use Audacity to record and edit sound. During our English, Maths, Science and History lessons, children will be using the computers as a tool to support and develop their learning.

Useful Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/>

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/welcome/start.htm>

<http://www.mathletics.co.uk/>

You can download the Audacity free-source software that we are using in class from the following website:

<http://www.audacity.sourceforge.net/>

