

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 2020

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 explore everyday life in a Viking settlement.

All Around the World!

In the second half of the term, the children will learn 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.

English

Writing

In the first half term, the children will develop their fiction skills by writing a 'Tale of Fear' based on a class novel. The focus will be on the use of language that creates tension and action in their writing. They will then deepen their letter writing skills by writing a recount of any class trips.

In the second half of the term, they will go on to look at descriptive writing based on a 'Losing Tale'. The children will expand their sentence skills and include detail to interest the reader, using a range of sentence types.

Reading

The children's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is taught in specific reading and English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' skills constantly across all subjects, too. Regular reading at home will support all areas of learning at school.

How to help your child develop their reading skills in Year 4:

1. When your child is reading aloud, encourage them to use suitable expression for dialogue;
2. Point out different types of punctuation such as speech marks, commas, exclamation marks, ellipsis (...);
3. Use dictionaries or encyclopaedias, and use alphabetical order to find words/ topics;
4. In non-fiction texts, use skimming and scanning to locate relevant information quickly;
5. Discuss how dialogue and description in a book helps you to understand the meaning;
6. Point out words and phrases that catch your attention and imagination, talk about why this is;
7. Talk about the themes of the book and books with similar themes;
8. Read books by the same author and talk about how the books are similar/ different;
9. Talk about how the context of the story, e.g. historical setting or social/ cultural setting.

Spelling

We will be following the 'No Nonsense Spelling' programme. The focus will shift from the traditional weekly spelling test to child-orientated activities, with the aim of teaching spelling, rather than just assessing it. 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 help them to learn the words they have been exploring in class, using them in context.

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 columns, joke pages or about a 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 everyday life of the Vikings.

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 for this term's learning, listed in this booklet, so that your child can use it in context correctly, knowing its meaning.

Encourage your child to use Mathletics as often as possible. If you print off any certificates earned, please send them in so we can praise your child, too!

Science

The children will be taught to build on their existing knowledge of states of matter and the water cycle. Pupils will 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 at Teeth and the Digestive System. The children will describe the simple functions of the parts of the digestive system in humans. They 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.

Music

The children will be following the 'Charanga' scheme of work throughout the term.

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 family and months of the year.

Homework

Homework will be set on Wednesday and due in the following Monday. Please support your child with their homework and ensure a high standard of presentation is achieved.

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
adverb	personification
verb	adjective
suffix	prefix
fronted adverbial	
expanded noun phrase	
opinion	fact
alliteration	repetition
statistics	
rhetorical question	
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

PE for this term is Tudor dance and football.

PE will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays, however PE kit should be kept in school all week.

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

We will continue to following the 'Jigsaw' scheme of work which is designed to include Emotional Literacy, Social Skills and Spiritual Development. Children will have the opportunity to create individual dreams and goals, and to understand the importance of having a positive attitude. We will be discussing healthy friendships and peer pressure, as well as influences on healthy lifestyles.

Computing

This term, the children will learn how to develop communications, including understanding algorithms, creating simple programs and learning how to stay safe online.

They will:

learn to write and edit simple algorithms using HTML;
use search engines to collect information;
create a PowerPoint presentation about something they learned on a school trip.

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 children will learn to create monochrome paintings in the style of Pablo Picasso.

