

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. 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

Summer Term 2019

Teacher: Mrs Ofosu

Year 4 Topics

Civilised Egyptians!

Ancient Egypt provides one of the longest continuous records of a great civilization. We will be looking at the fascinating culture that left behind the great pyramids, the Sphinx, and one of the first written languages. The children will learn about the way of life of people living in Ancient Egypt from archaeological discoveries. They will write their own messages in hieroglyphic symbols and learn about the pyramid shape. They'll also learn about mummies and write persuasive adverts to invite people to visit Egypt. We will also be visiting the British Museum in mid-January.

Land Ahoy!

In the second half of the term, the Geography topic will be on 'Land Use'. We will learn about what the term 'land use' mean and also how land use in the UK has changed in the past and how it may change in the future.

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 stories from other cultures, newspaper report and narrative poetry

Spelling

In spelling, the focus will shift from the traditional weekly 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

Talk to your child and find out where they need to improve their learning; they should know. If they don't, please come in and ask.

Practise times tables and number bonds. Why not buy a cheap poster with them and get them to hang it up in their bedrooms so that they practise as they get ready for bed? There are lots of apps as well, but nothing beats reciting them.

Ask them about their homework on Thursday evenings and talk it through with them. If there are any doubts, please encourage them to ask for help.

Help them to prepare all their belongings ready for school the night before. Their pencil cases should contain a working pen, whiteboard pen, purple pen, pencil, rubber, pencil sharpener, small ruler and glue stick. It's a good idea to keep reading record books and reading books in bags every day.

Take them out and about, even if it's just for a walk or to the park. If you go shopping and are using cash, ask them to get the right money out of your purse. Will you need change, and if so, how much?

Ensure you have an analogue clock in the house. Make sure you ask them to tell you when tea is ready, or it's time for school etc.

Do they have a pile of books by their bed? This is a great way to get to sleep. Please remember to sign their reading record.

If you are cooking or measuring up, get them to join in. Ask them to work out the cost of a trip out or a holiday.

If there are spellings that are proving difficult, get them to look these up in a dictionary. They could keep a spelling list in their bedroom.

Science

Our first topic will be about living things and their habitats. Pupils will identify and name a variety of living things (plants and animals) in the local and wider environment, using classification keys to assign them to groups. They will also learn to recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

After half term, our topic will be 'Human Impact'. We will be looking at how humans affect the environment in positive and negative ways, how cutting down trees and littering have a negative effect on animals and plants, and how protecting endangered species and cleaning lakes and seas has a positive effect on the environment.

Religious Education

This half term, children will discuss their own, and others' views of religious truth and beliefs contained within Sacred Texts. After half term, we will be looking at their own and other's views about the origins and purpose of life.

Personal, Social and Health Education

Our topics in PSHE are Changes and Relationships. We will be looking at why people's routines have to change and how we might change something about ourselves. We will consider different kinds of relationships and how we might feel if a relationship breaks down, exploring ways to put these right.

Key vocabulary

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

English

Homophone
Homonym
Preposition
Conjunction
Noun phrase
Verb
Adjective
Adjectival phrase
Adverbial phrase
Rhyming couplets

Maths

Number lines
Decimals
Negative numbers
Problem solving
Inverse operations
Fractions
Intervals
Sequences
Tenths
Hundredths
Thousandths

Science

Vertebrates	Invertebrates
Fish	birds
Mammal	reptiles
Amphibians	Mollusc
Crustaceans	annelids
Arthropods	Arachnids
Litter	recycling
Endangered	
Species	extinct
Environment	
Derelict	graffiti

Other

Empathy	Sympathy
Offa	Amulet
Chronicle	Ancient Egypt
Artefact	Sarcophagus
Mummification	Nile
Hieroglyphs	
Flowchart	Algorithm
Procedure	Debug
Equator	Hemisphere
Latitude	Longitude
Tropic	Climate
Meridian	Polar
Arctic	

Physical Education

In athletics the children will focus on developing good basic techniques in running, jumping and throwing. They will be set challenges for distance and time that involve the use of different styles and combinations of running, jumping and throwing. Children will consider how to achieve the greatest possible speed, height, distance or accuracy. The children will also be given the opportunity to extend their skills in kwik cricket this term. Our PE slots are on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons.

Design and Technology/ Art

During the first half term, the children will be making Egyptian scarab necklaces using tin foil and papier mache.

Pupils will be taught the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage in a repeated cycle of designing and making. This term we will be making pizza and will visit Pizza Express to see how the professionals do it!

French

This term the children will develop and build on their existing knowledge of the French language, particularly in terms of oracy. Our focus will be on houses and homes.

Computing

Computing is taught directly through the Herts ICT scheme of work in termly units.

This term, our focus is programming. Children will explore simulations, explaining how these are structured and some of the programming needed. They will decompose tasks and create and debug algorithms to solve them, understanding how algorithms support the programming process. They will write programs to achieve specific objectives, understanding and using sequence, selection and repetition. They will test, debug and refine their programs. We will be using the programmes Scratch, Logo and, dependent on progress, Python.

During our lessons, pupils will also be using the computers and iPads as tools to support and develop their learning.

Music

This term the children will take part in some music appreciation as well as attempting to extend their aural memory.

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/>

