



Can you imagine life without electricity?

Our enquiry question this term combines science and geography.

We will be learning what electricity is, how it works and where it comes from. We will discuss our need for electricity and explore how people in different parts of the world live their lives without as much reliance on electricity as us.

Dear adults,
Hello from the Year 4 team! We are so lucky to have Jo and Helen supporting us with our learning at different times throughout the week. The children have come back to school happy, focused and ready to learn. Overall, they have done an amazing job settling into Year 4! Apologies for not getting to know you all yet with the lack of face to face contact, but if you have any concerns, please call or email to discuss with Jenna, who is always happy to help.

WRITING

-We will be linking our enquiry question to our writing in English to create a cross-curricular crossover! Our main text will be 'Gregory Cool', the story of a boy who goes to stay with his family in Tobago and has to adapt to a new way of living.

-We are working towards creating our own diary entry, based on a day in the life of Gregory Cool. We will be writing in first person and using paragraphs.

-We will learn all about imperative verbs and use them to create a persuasive poster. We will also use them to write instructions for building a model house!

-We will be reading, writing and performing poetry of a Caribbean origin. We will use adjectives, nouns, verbs and personification.

LEARN TOGETHER

-We will explore our value of responsibility and what that means at school and at home.

-We will be thinking about our rights and linking them to Recycling Week, International Day of Deaf People and International Day of Older Persons..

-We will be discussing equality and justice, focusing on how we can promote equality and exploring human rights.

-We will link class discussions to our enquiry question by exploring our right to electricity.

MATHS

-We will be using our knowledge of place value to help us represent, compare and order numbers up to 10,000. We will rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 and negative numbers will be introduced.

-During the second half of the term we will largely focus on adding and subtracting two 4-digit numbers, as well as using estimating to check our answers. We will be playing times table games in lessons.

- We will use methods and manipulatives to help us with our understanding such as: jumping on number lines, column method, place value counters and dienes.

READING

- We will be exploring lots of different texts in Guided Reading relating to our enquiry question, including 'The Paperbag Prince'. We will have time each week for reading for pleasure.

- We will be reading short burst texts and answering questions about what we have read to help develop our comprehension skills. We are working on retrieval, prediction, sequencing, summarising, inference and understanding vocabulary.

-We are regularly reading, book sharing and storytelling. When reading at home with us please help us to choose a balance between fiction storybooks and non-fiction information books.

- We love challenging ourselves to answer questions about what we have just read!

SPaG & HANDWRITING (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)

-We will be revisiting all of our different spelling strategies-ask us to show you! We will learn how to spell new words ending with -sure and -ture.

-We will be learning how to use apostrophes for singular nouns and how to spell different homophones. Ask us to spot them when we are reading together!

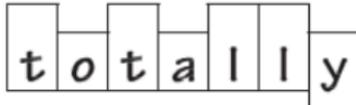
- We will be using punctuation such as exclamation marks and question marks in our writing.

-We will be focusing on using our cursive handwriting, looking at our bottom and top letter joins.



Term 1 learning overview-what are some of the things your child is learning this term?

In Year 4 we often work in a cross-curricular manner but sometimes the cross-curricular subjects such as science, art, history and geography are blocked off to give appropriate coverage and depth to the curriculum.

Look, say, cover, write, check	This is probably the most common strategy used to learn spellings. Look: first look at the whole word carefully. Say: say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable. Cover: cover the word. Write: write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so. Check: have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – look, say, cover, write, check.
Quick write (1 minute)	Writing the words with speed and fluency. The aim is to write the word spelt correctly as many times as possible within a minute. This can be turned into a variety of competitive games including working in teams and developing relay race approaches.
Drawing around the word to show the shape	Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape. 
Pyramid words	This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately. <p style="text-align: center;">p py pyr pyra pyram pyrami pyramid</p> You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.
Rainbow writing	Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of the words memorable. You can write each letter in a different colour, highlighting the part that is tricky.

SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

- We will be learning all about electricity and exploring how to connect bulbs, batteries and switches to create circuits. We will discuss appliances in the home and learn how to be safe around electricity.
- We will recognise different materials as conductors or insulators of material, as well as explore forces by investigating materials on the basis of their magnetism.
- We will locate countries on a map, including countries in Europe and those that we will be reading about in our books.
- We will discover how people in different parts of the world live with less electricity and compare their lives with our own.
- We will be travel back in time, to explore how the use of electricity has changed within the UK and discover how much our lives have changed!
- We will find out how our ancestors survived with no electricity at all.

MUSIC, ART AND PE

- We have started our fantastic 'Preludes' music sessions as a class on a Friday with Ian, focusing this term on body percussion.
- We will be designing and building our own model house based on our focus text Gregory Cool. We will also be doing some cave paintings to link with our history lessons.
- This term in P.E we will be exploring gymnastics with the fabulous sports coaches. With Jenna, we will be focussing on dance, exploring movement and balance. P.E is on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, P.E kits will be sent home every Friday to be washed.

COMPUTING

Programming including...

- We will create and explain algorithms using sequencing and repetition.
- We will use reasoning to detect and correct errors in programmes.
- We will also revisit and practice our fluency on the keyboard when using both Chrome Books and iPads.

SPANISH

- We will be revisiting basic greetings and how to introduce ourselves.
- We will learn how to count to 30 fluently, the days of the weeks, months of the year and then applying this vocabulary to dates.

WEBSITE+TWITTER

Please continue to check our school website and Twitter. It is updated as often as possible.
The school webpage has useful links to help you support your child's learning with websites and games we often use.