



## Term 5 2020-2021 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 making many links across learning, but sometimes the cross-curricular subjects such as science, art, computing, history and geography are blocked off to give appropriate coverage and depth to the curriculum.

### Am I too small to make a difference?

**Our enquiry question this term has a Learn Together focus looking at the environment and ethics.**

We are learning about human impacts on the environment and the different solutions. We will be finding out what we can do to make a positive difference and taking action in school. Year 4 have decided they would like

Dear adults,  
Hello from the Year 4 team, we can't believe we are in term 5 already! The children have been brilliant since coming back to school, they are engaged with learning and all so happy to be back with their friends. Thank you all so much for your support during lockdown, I know you all helped your children to do their best and ensured that they continue to learn, it is very appreciated! We are really looking forward to the rest of the year in the

### WRITING

-Our writing will be based on the book, 'The Whale', by Ethan and Vita Murrow. This book is mainly a picture book with the only writing being part of a newspaper article at the beginning and end. The story is told using black and white sketches. Our writing aim this term is to write a story that matches up with the pictures.

-Every lesson, we will look at a different part of the story and discuss what we think is happening. We will be using 'exploration lessons' to create a bank of rich vocabulary to use in our writing.

-We will be using 'sentence stacking' lessons to create sentences that we can use in our writing. Each lesson will be based on a different part of the story. We will be thinking carefully about sentence structure and focusing on writing a small amount of high-quality sentences each lesson.

### LEARN TOGETHER

-We will explore our values of justice and empathy.

-Our enquiry is based on learning about the environment. We will start the term by celebrating Earth Day and watching a live performance of 'The Lorax'.

-We will have a water safety talk from the Canal and River Trust.

-We are going to identify the different plastic we use in the classroom and try to reduce our consumption at school. We will be helping with recycling and creating an environmental charter.

-We will be discussing what to do and who we can speak to if we are feeling worried about the environment.

### MATHS

-This term we will be focusing on fractions.

-We will be first looking at understanding a fraction as a whole and its parts, halves, quarters and thirds.

-We will learn about unit and non-unit fractions, equivalent fractions and counting in fractions.

-We will then look at tenths and hundredths and make links to decimals.

### READING

- We are reading The Wild Robot by Peter Brown.

-In our guided reading sessions, we will be reading a few short chapters a day and then answering 2-3 VIPERS questions. We will look at a different VIPERS skill every day (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, summarising).

-We will have separate time for reading out loud with an adult in small groups, as well as free-reading time where we can choose a topic book from the book corner to read independently.

-On May 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be having an online workshop with the author Stephen Pass. After the workshop, I will send children home with a letter as there will be an option to purchase a signed copy of his book, 'Madge the Mermaid'.

### SPaG & HANDWRITING (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)

-We are revisiting all of the different sound families and practising how to choose the correct spelling in our writing. We will be using spelling mats to help us become more confident spellers.

-We will be learning how to include conjunctions, clauses, commas, fronted adverbials and paragraphs in our writing.

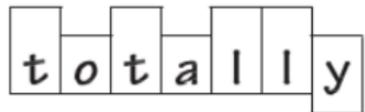
-We will be focusing on checking and editing our work.

-We will continue with handwriting practice twice a week.



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<b>Look, say, cover, write, check</b>	This is probably the most common strategy used to learn spellings. <b>Look:</b> first look at the whole word carefully. <b>Say:</b> say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable. <b>Cover:</b> cover the word. <b>Write:</b> write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so. <b>Check:</b> have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – <b>look, say, cover, write, check.</b>
<b>Quick write (1 minute)</b>	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.
<b>Drawing around the word to show the shape</b>	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. 
<b>Pyramid words</b>	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.
<b>Rainbow writing</b>	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 about the different parts of a plant and their lifecycles,
- Our main science topic this term is Living things and their habitats. We will learn how to group and classify living things, use keys to identify and name them, and learn about the impacts of environmental change.
- We will compare what the UK is doing to help the environment with other countries across the world. We will also compare this with the local area around Keynsham and within school.

### MUSIC, ART AND PE

- We are continuing with 'Preludes' music sessions as a class on a Friday with Ian and Emma.
- We will be completing an art project linked to our enquiry question.
- This term in P.E we will be learning the relevant skills to play football with the sports coaches. With Jo, the focus will be ball skills. PE will be with Jo on a Thursday morning and Lara on a Friday afternoon. Both lessons are outside, unless the weather is terrible! Please pack a sunhat or sunglasses and apply suntan cream to children before school if needed on these days.
- We finally have confirmation that Year 4 will be having swimming lessons. This will be in July and more details will follow

### COMPUTING Internet Safety

- With the extra time being spent online this year, we will be spending more time learning about internet safety.
- This will include cyber-bullying, how to trust the information we read online, how to use search engines safely and what to do if we find anything that does not feel right.
- In school, we are using a child-friendly search engine called Swiggle and we are trying to say 'Swiggle it' instead of 'Google it'.

### 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.