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| **English** | In the first half term, Year 4 will be reading Ottoline and the Yellow Cat. The children will focus on characters’ thoughts and feelings, and on the features of mystery stories. To incorporate grammar, the children will revise their knowledge of different types of sentence and clause. The writing tasks include writing a newspaper report, a postcard to Ottoline’s parents and an extract from her notebook. The final writing task will focus on the structure of mystery stories about Ottoline and Mr. Monroe.  The topic for the second half term is persuasive writing and adverts. The children will find key features of persuasive writing and use these with a twist, to persuade people not to buy! Using compound and complex sentences, the children will then write a persuasive letter about their bedtime.  **What you can do to help**: Continue to listen to your child read every night, it is best to hear your child read little and often. It is also very important that your child sees you read for pleasure and you can even read them popular children’s books, such as *Harry Potter* and *A Series of Unfortunate Events,* demonstrating how to use expression. |
| **Maths** | We will continue with multiplication and division, consolidating and revising all the times tables from 1 to 12. We will progress onto multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by a 1-digit number using formal written layout. This knowledge will then be applied to calculating the area of shapes.  In the second half term, we will study fractions and decimals. The children will gain a deep understanding of each topic by applying knowledge to solve problems in real-life situations.  **What you can do to help:** The children need to practise and learn their times tables so they are fluent. There are many websites and online games that can be used to help. Please email me if you would like some resources. To help with decimals, relate it to pounds and pence so they understand the relevance. |
| **Science** | To kick-start the topic of Rocks and Soils, the class will be going on an educational trip to Harlow Carr, where they will be having a workshop on different types of rock and soil. In school, we will be comparing and identifying properties of rocks and soils, and will consider the impact of worms when making soils. The children will also have the opportunity to make their own fossil and look at the work of early paleontologists.  In the second half term, the topic is Light and Shadows. We will explore different light sources and light reflectors, and will look at how shadows are formed. They will use the scientific vocabulary ‘opaque’, ‘translucent’ and ‘transparent’ to describe materials that can cast shadows.  **What you can do to help:** Spend some time outside and do some gardening with your child to learn about soil. Look at different buildings and ask what type of stone they think it is made of. |
| **Computing** | Computing will be linked to our Topic this term. Each child will research a European country and gather information on it to create a PowerPoint presentation, which they will then present to the rest of the class. Similarly, the children will be working in groups to research Mount Vesuvius.  **What you can do to help: With your supervision, allow your children to use the internet for educational research and activities.** |
| **French** | This term we will be learning vocabulary for ‘what’s in my bag?’, school subjects and express likes and dislikes. The grammatical focus will be on the agreement of adjectives and the present tense.  **What you can do to help**: Encourage your child to repeat new vocabulary and speak to you in French, and ask your child to show you Linguascope at home. |
| **Topic** | We are continuing to learn about the Romans and their invasion of Britain for the first half term and will gain a deeper understanding of Roman life and culture. To do this, we will have a Romans’ feast. We will also look at the societal hierarchy and understand that people would have eaten different things, depending on their class.  Geography lessons will continue to be based on European countries, but will have a focus on Italy, Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius.  In the second half term, we will continue to learn about the history of British invasions through the Anglo-Saxons.  In Religious Education, Year 4 will be studying Jesus’ life and death. They will be learning about some of Jesus’ most famous miracles, including walking on water, feeding the 5000 and turning water into wine. Year 4 will also learn about Lent and Jesus’ crucifixion.  **What you can do to help:** Encourage your child to watch educational programmes such as *Horrible Histories*. Also, use globes and Google Earth/Maps to question their Geography knowledge. Ask them to locate the different continents, oceans and seas. Can they name 5 countries in each continent? |
| **Art** | Year Four will be developing their artistic ideas from the topics of volcanoes, Romans and Anglo-Saxons this term. Through the media of collage they will be refining their skills of selecting, arranging and juxtaposing materials of differing properties and textures to striking effect, and will gain experience in adapting and refining their ideas and approach as they progress. Designing will also be a key skill this term, drawing upon the designs of the Anglo-Saxons, especially with regard to archaeological artifacts |
| **P.E. and Games** | There will be a focus on gymnastics for the first half of the term.  We will be working thorough the British Gymnastics proficiency schemes which incorporate floor work, balances, apparatus, pair work and mini routines.  After half term we will move onto dance choreography for the production.  We will also be getting our trainers on ready for the Foxhill Run.  Games for the Spring term will cover football, netball, swimming and cross country. |
| **PSHCEE** | PSHCEE is a stand-alone lesson but is also touched on in many other subjects.  The main focuses for this term are Peer Relationships and Citizenship in the Local Community.  As well as learning about these topics, we will have discussions about current affairs and watch the news every week.  **What you can do help:** Have open-ended discussions about any related issues. Let your child read newspapers to broaden their world knowledge. |
| **Music** | In music this term, Year 4 will be studying pentatonic scales and learning pentatonic songs. In pairs, they will compose a short pentatonic piece for xylophone.  Year 4 will also be busy preparing songs for the school production. |
| **Drama** | In drama this term the children will be taking part in a number of activities designed to build confidence on stage. We will be looking at body posture, facial expressions and delivery of lines before preparing for our end of term production. |
|  | **Year 4’s target this term is to…**  Listen carefully to instructions and complete work independently  Be more confident – believe in yourself  Assert yourself and develop leadership skills  **What you can do to help:** Whilst encouraging your child to be independent, please check their homework and go through it with them. Reward them if they have worked well.  **Maths / English Homework: Tuesday – (hand in on Thurs), Thursday (hand in on Mon)**  **Reading – 10 15 minutes each night** |

Please feel free to email me should you ever need to get in touch. If there is an important message written into the Homework Diary, please encourage your child to show it to me when they enter the classroom in the morning.

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