



Year 4

In Autumn 1 our topic is:
Why were the Ancient Egyptians exciting?



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible Activities to be done at home
English	During our English lessons this half term, we will be basing our reading and writing on texts linked with the topic of Ancient Egypt, beginning with a book we are sure the children will enjoy called 'There's a Pharaoh in my Bath' written by Jeremy Strong. We will also be using a digital literacy story about Tadeo Jones, an Egyptian explorer. Hopefully these fabulous texts will inspire the children's story writing and also be a great stimulus for a factual based report on the pyramids of Egypt.	Children are given time to read in school and are expected to also read at home. Exposure to a range of texts including magazines, comics, non-fiction texts, poetry etc. will help to develop their fluency and understanding. Please support your child at home by reading together as often as you can to promote a love of reading and learning.
Maths	In Maths this half term, children will be taking part in weekly times tables practise tests. In lessons we will initially be focussing on place value; including negative numbers, addition and subtraction of 4-digit numbers and using the inverse to check our answers. This will be followed by shape work, based on quadrilaterals and triangles and then converting time between analogue and digital 12- and 24-hour clocks.	By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of the times tables and related division facts. There are lots of ways to practise these, such as online games, songs, writing them down and verbally rehearsing them. Children are encouraged to use Times Tables Rockstars as much as possible to help improve their recall of times tables facts.
Science	In Science our first topic of the year is Sound. We will learn about the way sound travels, how it is made, the effect volume has on the vibration and what 'pitch' is and how and why it changes. We will be taking our learning outdoors, carrying out a string telephone experiment to find out which material makes sound travel better, as well as investigating vibration, pitch and volume with a range of musical instruments.	Discuss sounds in different environments, when out and about. Can you detect sounds which are at different pitches? Are there any sounds which vibrations have affected? Children might also like to create their own string telephone using different materials at home.
History	Our study of Ancient Egypt will develop the children's knowledge of the achievements of this ancient civilisation. They will learn about how and where the ancient Egyptians lived, what was important to the daily lives of ancient Egyptians, who Tutankhamun was and how mummies were made. The children will also learn about how Egyptian people used hieroglyphs to communicate and compare the powers of different gods.	Encourage your child to discuss their learning about the Ancient Egyptian period of history so the whole family can become experts in this ancient civilisation. If you have access to the internet, find out about Howard Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun and the riches and knowledge that were uncovered.

Religious Education	Children will learn about the lives of people of faith from different religions. They will identify key events in their lives, how their faith and beliefs have influenced them to overcome challenging circumstances, and how it has inspired their lives and work. They will compare and contrast these stories before examining the role of beliefs and/or faith in their own lives.	You could discuss what other religions may do to show care for others. Does anybody at home have any involvement in or support a charity? Discuss with your child strategies that may be of help to them when faced with their own challenges.
Computing	Children will learn what debugging is and use what they learn to debug paper algorithms. Over the weeks they will use and investigate the different features of Sprite, including effects and scoring systems, which they will then use to make a quiz of their own on the topic of Ancient Egypt.	Look at different types of quizzes. Are there any effects and colours that look good which the children may want to use in the classroom when they create their own quiz using their newly acquired computing skills?
Physical Education	Our focus in PE for the half term is Tag Rugby. Children will learn the rules of TAG Rugby, how to pass and tag with the correct technique as well as developing their skills in order to successfully work as part of a team.	Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school on a Tuesday as this is our PE day. This should be black shorts and a plain white T-shirt, with appropriate clothing for outdoor PE too. Appropriate footwear should also be worn for these lessons. 
Relationships Education	During this half term we shall be implementing a recovery curriculum to help the children deal with their feelings related to their experiences during lockdown. Each week the children will be introduced to a new lens of the recovery curriculum to assist them in their return to 'normal' schooling. The 5 lenses are: reconnecting, recognition, reward relaxation and readiness to learn.	Ask your child to share what they have been doing at school and discuss their feelings or concerns about the way the world has changed in recent times.
Music	The children will be learning how to compare and contrast structures in music. We will also learn a verse and chorus of a song to perform in groups as part of the whole school Art project.	Encourage your child to listen to a variety of music and sounds from TV programmes, the radio or films to promote discussions on different musical compositions.
Art/ DT	The whole school are taking part in an Art project based on a book called 'Rules for Summer' by Shaun Tan. Our focus in Year 4 will be to produce a piece of artwork around the theme of Birds of Prey. The children will use different shading techniques in order to produce their piece of art.	Practise your sketching skills at home, perhaps try a portrait of a family member. Encourage your child to look really closely at an image they can sketch, discussing perspective, lines and patterns. 
French	In the topic 'All Around Town' the children will be introduced to the sights of some typical French cities. They will also learn to describe places in a town, count to 100 and give their address in French.	Children can further investigate different places in France and how they compare to Darlington in terms of climate, population, tourist attractions, culture and location with the country.

Year Group: Y4

Term: Autumn (1) 2020

Class Teachers: Mrs Coates and Mr West

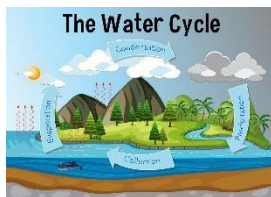
Head teacher: Z. Beach



Year 4

In Autumn 2 our topic is:
Why is Water so Important?



Curriculum Area	Areas to be taught in school	Possible Activities to be done at home
English	During our English lessons this half term, we will be basing our reading and writing on a new text – 'Bill's New Frock' by Anne Fine. We think the children will enjoy this entertaining and thought-provoking book and are hoping it will encourage them to think more carefully about the importance of fair treatment for all. We will also be developing our poetry composition and performance skills with a range of Christmas poetry.	We have many enthusiastic readers in Y4 who are keen to explore a range of authors and genres of books. Exposure to a variety of texts including magazines, comics, non-fiction texts, poetry, etc will help to promote an interest in reading. Please support your child with regular reading practice at home and by signing their reading records so they can further build on the progress they have already made this year.
Maths	In maths this half term, we will be building on our number skills by learning how to multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using formal written methods. We will be learning how to measure accurately using a range of maths equipment as well as taking our maths learning outside during our Outdoor Classroom Day as part of our work on measuring trees. Towards the end of the half term, we will be looking at bar charts and line graphs and understanding how to read the data.	By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all of the times tables and related division facts. There are many ways to practise these such as online games, songs, writing them down and verbally rehearsing them. Children are encouraged to use Times Tables Rockstars as much as possible to help improve their times tables as this is set out like the times table test which they will complete in the Summer Term.
Science	In our science topic, we will be finding out about States of Matter by learning about the differences between solids, liquids and gases. We will be classifying objects and identifying their properties as well as exploring in-depth how water changes state. Through an experiment on finding the ideal conditions for drying washing, we will learn about evaporation and the role of this process in the water cycle.	Encourage your child to discuss their learning about states of matter at home and see if they can identify examples of different solids, liquids and gases. Perhaps you could explore the ingredients you use in cooking that are solids or liquids or discuss what is happening to the water in the kettle when steam can be seen coming from it.
Geography	<p>In our topic based on the importance of water around the world we will be finding the answers to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does water look like? What is the water cycle? How are rain clouds made? How do we clean water? Why does the land flood? What are the effects of water pollution? 	<p>Find out about the main seas and oceans of the world using Google. Can you name them and describe where they are?</p> <p>Think about how important water is to us and how it affects our lives. How often and how much do we use? What might happen if we did not have enough water? Are there any ways in which we can help save water in and around the home?</p>

Religious Education	We will be looking at the true meaning of Christmas and answering the question – Why is Jesus the Light of the World? We will be discussing the different ways in which we use light and why light is considered an important religious symbol.	You could discuss different ways in which we use light at home, including at birthday celebrations, Christmas time, Bonfire Night and other religious festivals.
Computing	We will be continuing our learning on debugging and how to apply our knowledge when debugging paper algorithms. We will use and investigate the different features of Sprite, including effects and scoring systems, which they will then use to make a quiz of their own on the topics covered in geography.	Look at different types of quizzes. Are there any effects and colours that look good which the children may want to use in the classroom when they create their own quiz using their newly acquired computing skills?
Physical Education	Year 4 are embarking on a new and exciting programme in P.E. led by an expert coach from the Team Up Kids organisation, which focuses on health and wellbeing by understanding how the brain works and what we need to stay healthy physically and mentally. We will also be continuing our sequence work in gymnastics and incorporating the new skills we have learnt.	Please ensure your child comes to school dressed in appropriate P.E. clothing on their allocated P.E. days. Appropriate footwear is also required. PE days are as follows: Class 9 - Monday and Wednesday Class 10 - Monday and Tuesday
Relationships Education	We will continue with Northwood's Recovery Curriculum, which aims to support children's social and emotional wellbeing in school following the global pandemic. This half term's lenses are the 5CS – collaboration, communication, care, community and connection. Each week, the children will engage in short activities to develop their social and emotional skills in each of the 5 areas. As part of Relationships Education this half term the children will also focus on their health and wellbeing.	Talk about the 5Cs that the children have been learning in school and why are they so important? Can you put together a 'keeping healthy' plan as a family to further promote positive steps towards maintaining a healthy and positive lifestyle in the current challenging climate of Covid-19.
Music	This half term the children will complete their learning on an ABBA based unit of musical activities. They will be learning to sing, play, improvise and compose within the well-known song 'Mamma Mia'. The children will also have the opportunity to listen to and appraise other ABBA hits. As well as this, we will be using instruments to help understand and develop our knowledge of rhythm.	Relive the ABBA hits with your child; listen to their hit songs together and decide upon family favourites, giving reasons for your preferences.
DT	In DT, we will be creating a Christmas card with a moving lever. We will be investigating different lever books and Christmas cards as well as thinking about the audience and purpose of the product. We will then design and create a prototype of our cards so we can evaluate them before making the final design.	You could practise your developing lever skills at home by creating a different Christmas card for your family. Think about the different levers and try to match its function to an appropriate picture.
French	Our topic this half term is 'On the Move'. In this unit of study the children will learn to develop their conversational skills through some new learning and vocabulary based around different modes of transport, movement and direction.	You could practise speaking French at home and teach other people your new learning. You could create your own French dictionary to explain the meaning of new words learned.



Year Group: Y4

Term: Autumn (2) 2020

Class Teachers: Mrs Coates and Mr West

Head teacher: Z. Beach