





## 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
<b>English</b>	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.
<b>Maths</b>	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.
<b>Science</b>	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.
<b>History</b>	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.

<b>Religious Education</b>	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.
<b>Computing</b>	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?
<b>Physical Education</b>	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. 
<b>Relationships Education</b>	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.
<b>Music</b>	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.
<b>Art/ DT</b>	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. 
<b>French</b>	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**