

Class 4 Curriculum Update

November 2022

November's Values: Respect and empathy

December's Values: Compassion and simplicity



Junior Forester's Award

This week the children completed their third and final session with Tim from Teaching Trees and therefore completed their Junior Forester's award. During the sessions, the children have looked at risk management of our Forest School site to identify hazards and balance the benefits of an activity against the risk. The children regularly take responsibility and are trusted to manage risk in school. It was great to see how seriously they carried out the risk management with good awareness of what was a potential hazard. Tim helped to improve their knowledge of identifying trees and plants around our Forest School site using the leaves to help with identification. In addition, they collected and identified different insects. Tim took some of these with him to log what insects are on our site and the children found a rare lemon slug. They have also made elder necklaces using some tools safely. Furthermore, the children looked at woodland management, including identifying what trees may need to be removed as part of the woodland management process. The children had to consider whether it was dying, was more light needed for other trees or if the trees were too close together. They had to mark the trees they would remove and explain why. As part of the award, the children were also taught how to measure a tree to see roughly how old it was. This meant they had to cooperate as a team and use their maths skills to work out the age. Finally, the children were set a little woodland challenge to consider what leisure facilities they would provide to the public if they were a forest manager. Their designs using materials from the woodland area had to include a car park, toilets and a café with a view. They considered their designs carefully and were creative with some of the features. Now that the children have completed their award, they will receive their badge and use the skills they have learnt in the future with younger children at break times and lunchtimes. Thank you Tim from Teaching Trees for the thoroughly enjoyable and informative sessions and well done to all of the children.



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 29th November - Curriculum visit to Bristol, including to a Buddhist centre and the M Shed. You will have received the form via Parent Mail, with the details of the visit and times.

Thursday and Friday any children with earrings should have them taped up and anyone with longer hair should have a hairband for safety reasons during PE sessions.

Year 4 have been looking at the religion of Hinduism, Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita. As a writer, the children have been writing some poetry linked to Diwali and fireworks, working on their vocabulary and using metaphors and expanded noun phrases to great effect. As part of looking at Remembrance we looked at life in the trenches and wrote an amazing double page spread diary entry from the point of view of a soldier.

In mathematics, we have been looking at multiplication and division linked to the 3, 6 and 9 times tables. Also, as it is November the children have been solving Barvember problems. These are problems that involve using a pictorial representation of a problem or concept where bars or boxes are used to represent the known and unknown quantities. This is way the children can visualise word problems and help them identify what of the four operations may need to be done to solve the problem.

In science we have been looking at the structure and the functions of each part of the ear and trying to explain how we hear.

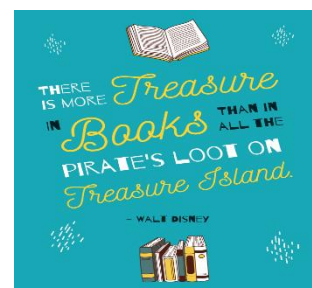
In PE, we have been using the apparatus in gymnastics to develop a sequence using different types of balances, ways of travelling and creating different shapes with our body. We have been making sure we consider different levels, speed and direction in our sequence.

Thank you to all those that were able to attend the Parents' evenings just before half term. It was great to meet you all.



Homework is important for practising, applying and consolidating the learning skills the children develop in school. **Spelling Shed** and **TTRockstars** are the weekly homework. It is expected that the children go on every week. 2/3 games per day, Monday to Friday, is great as little and often is best. In the Spring Term, the children will be taking their times tables test, as part of a nationwide test and will answer the questions on a computer. They are expected to know up to 12×12 , in under 5 seconds. We will be practising the time tables in school regularly as well. When they practice on TT Rockstars it will automatically follow onto the times tables that the children do not know as well and need to practice.

Reading. The expectation for reading in Year 4 is 15-20 minutes a day to an adult. The children should have their reading record and reading book in **every day**. When the children are listened to in school, the adults will write in purple pen. When you listen to them at home please write in their reading record, even if it is not a school book. The children continue to work on their comprehension skills weekly, linked to reading vipers.



If you have any questions or concerns, please email the office and I will get in touch with you as soon as I can. Mr Freeman and the Year 4 team.