

Class 4 Curriculum Update

October 2020



Values: Happiness and Fairness

The children are continuing to impress me with the way they have settled back into school this term. It is so wonderful having the classrooms full of children again and seeing them with their friends at playtime. They continue to show an understanding of the changes in place, and where some find this difficult, I believe they have tried their best to help keep them and others safe. We continue to work on the expectations and behaviour as we come together as a class once again, as a team that will be stronger than ever, as Year 4!

Thank you so much for the time given by parents to have a catch up with how the children have settled so far. It has been really helpful.

Bright Sparks.

To the children's disappointment, we have finished exploring electricity and circuits as part of our science work. The children have been so engaged with this and their final challenge was to be able to make their own 'Frankenstein', which is linked to our class read. They created a character with moving parts using a motor, parts that light up and possibly one that makes a sound with a buzzer. All of this was controlled by a switch that they had made themselves using electrical conductors found in every day items! There are lots of photos on the class page to show our work.



We are going to research Thomas Edison in class and produce a written piece about him. We will learn how most of his inventions or successes were where he developed the ideas and work of others.

Following on from our work on electricity, we have begun looking at forces. The children have simply explored pushes and pulls but have also shared further knowledge around gravity and how magnets work therefore I am very excited to see where our learning takes us. The children have played and designed games that use pushes and pulls as well as making a pulley system and sorting items that move when a push or a pull act on them.



Date for the diary:

Forest School: every Friday. Please wear the correct kit and bring a packed lunch. The children may put their items in a bag on these days. As it gets colder, layering up is very important so please ensure your children are dressed appropriately in old clothes.

Forest School



The children have been enjoying Forest School each Friday and there couldn't be a more perfect way to end a structured week. At Madley, Forest School is an essential part of our ethos because it is a child-centred learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting. In addition to the school adults offering these opportunities, the class have started their 6 sessions for achieving the Young Foresters Award by Teaching Trees. The image shows the areas that will be covered in their award and they will have many tasks and challenges they need to participate in and achieve to be successful.



RE

We will be discussing the significance of celebrating Harvest Festival. We will look at how this is important to Christians and celebrated in Churches. We will then look at how this is celebrated at different times around the world based on climate and crops as well and linking it to other religious celebrations such as Sukkot. It will also be a good opportunity to express what we are thankful for. There are questions from the children around God and is he real, which we will come on to discuss as the term progresses and look at different religions around the world. However, we will be thinking about the story of creation and how there are different ones from different religions. We will have a go at writing our own creation stories and look at this alongside of our science theme and how scientist challenge some of these beliefs.

In these lessons, we will have discussions around the importance of respecting the Values and beliefs of others even if they are different to our own.

Maths

The children have really enjoyed learning to round numbers to the nearest 10 and 100 with some extending this to 1000. It has been lovely to see children wanting extra questions to take home. We will continue to look at place value as we move on to addition and subtraction.

In addition to these areas, we are spending lots of time learning our times tables. It is one of those areas that we just need to keep practising. This is a significant area for the children to become confident in this year because they will have a times tables test around June time. I am sure you remember their phonics tests In Year 1 where they had to learn all their sounds, now they need to learn their times tables to 12x12. I will send more detail out about these later in the term but TT Rockstars is an excellent way to prepare for these.

English

We have been really focusing on developing our sentence structures in class and have a daily challenge of adding adjectives, expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials and conjunctions to a simple sentence. The children are getting really good at this and are becoming more confident in labelling the parts of a sentence. Doing this type of activity is starting to build up the quality of their sentences, their quality of their vocabulary choices and the pace of their writing, which we will soon see in their extended writing too.

The children seem to be enjoying this activity. We are also working on improving our spellings and their use on Spelling Shed will really support this. Some children have a few additional words to work on which have been put in their reading records. Please where possible support your children in learning these spellings.

French: The children have been really positive about learning French this term and are already building up their vocabulary so that they can ask and answer questions in small conversations with how they are and what their name is. They are also counting to ten and following simple instructions. The children are also learning about the culture and significant landmarks in France.



Homework

The children will receive weekly homework -

Maths - TT Rockstars. The children will have the same log in as last year and the expectation is to play 4 games per day.

Reading - The children should read for a minimum of 15 minutes per day and record this so that it will count towards their 40 reads. **Please can we ensure all reading records are in on a Friday! (If you find your child is forgetting due to Forest School, we are happy for them to be brought in on a Thursday).**

Spelling - Spelling Shed. The children will have the same log in as last year. We will build on the spelling patterns being learnt in class and continue to learn the year 3/4 common exception words. Please play 4-5 games per day.

After the homework reminder to the children last week, I was pleased to see the increase in children playing the games.

Year 4 promise to:

*Always show good listening
to others.*

*Always keep our hands and
feet to ourselves.*

*Always be respectful and
kind.*

Mrs Lee and the Year 4 team

Class Timetable

Although this is subject to change, the timetable for class 4 will be:

	am	pm
M		
T	Ukulele	PE
W	Art/ PE	
Th	French	
F	Forest School	Forest School

PE: Mr Hutton/ Mrs Lee

Art: Mrs Delahoy - a practitioner, who works regularly with the school and has produced some incredible work with the children.

Forest School: Mr Batstone/Mrs Richards/Mrs Crowther/Mrs Woodall.