

Year 4 Curriculum Update Summer 2026

4MM Mrs Talia Bywater
4AF Miss Cat Andrews
4CC Mrs Sarah Wheeler & Mrs Jo Cooper



Themes

Our theme for the first half of this term is Ancient Greece. The children will learn about this civilisation through their English, geography, art and history lessons. The children will also all work together on their production of 'Going for Gold'.

In the second half of the term their learning will have a science and design technology theme based around their work on electricity and circuits. The children will have the opportunity to design and make their own robot in a group of friends.

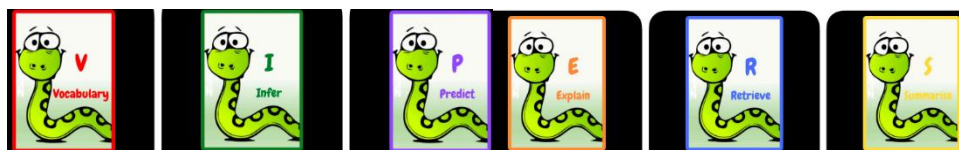
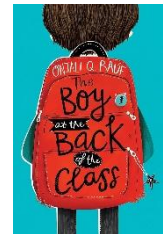
English

In English lessons the children will learn about letter writing, recounts, non-chronological report writing and biographies. They will also learn about play scripts as part of their production of 'Going for Gold'. Alongside these lessons, the children will learn the grammatical skills which support each of these genres.

They will continue to have a weekly set of spellings, following a particular pattern, to learn and practise using spelling shed. Handwriting fluency is also important as the children continue to develop their spelling and punctuation accuracy. More information about how English is taught can be found in the curriculum section of the school website.

Guided reading and class novels

The children will continue to have sessions of guided reading each week. These sessions will be linked to the class novels or be based on a linked text. The children will explore different question types and explore why authors choose particular words in their stories and texts. The children will also have opportunities to read aloud to the class, both as individuals, in a small groups and as a whole class.



Our question VIPERS

Mathematics

The focus for the term is initially on fractions, decimals then moving onto telling the time, money, shape, angles and finishing the term with a unit on position and direction. Each lesson includes practical learning, encouraging the children to develop a range of strategies to solve problems and apply these skills in different situations. They will also continue to develop their confidence with their times tables, practising their times tables daily and associated division facts. More information can be found by looking at our calculation policy on the school website. We are also developing a new times table fluency program, with the children practising quick recall of number facts every day. This regular practise will support the children in their confidence during the statutory times table test in June.

Science

In Science, the children will firstly learn about animals and humans. In this unit, the children will learn about the simple functions of the digestive system in humans, different types of teeth and their

functions. They will also learn about a variety of food chains, identifying producers, consumers, predators and prey. After half term they will learn about electricity. The children will construct simple series circuits, identifying cells, bulbs, wires, switches and buzzers. They will investigate how and why different circuits are working and recognise the purpose of a switch to open and close a circuit.

History/Geography

During this topic, the children will learn about the legacy of the Ancient Greeks. They will be investigating both primary and secondary sources and using these to interrogate the past. The questions they will be considering are:

- How do we know about the Ancient Greeks? (Theseus and the Minotaur: Is there any evidence for the Legend)
- What can we work out about everyday life in Ancient Athens from the pottery evidence that remains?
- Why was Athens the most powerful city in Ancient Greece?
- In what ways have the Ancient Greeks influenced our lives today? (Democracy, Language, Architecture, Thinkers)

In geography the children will learn about the location and names of European countries and their capitals. The children will further develop their knowledge of the locations and the physical and human geography associated with Greece.

Design Technology & Art

In DT the children will design and make a robot in groups to include an electrical circuit. In art they will learn about Barbara Hepworth and take part in a unit of work about sculpture. They will also have the opportunity to design and make objects from clay using their Ancient Greek topic as inspiration.

Music

The children will have a weekly music lesson either with their class teacher or our specialist music teacher Mrs Brown in the first half-term. They will also have a weekly singing assembly alongside the rest of KS2.

PE

The children will have two PE lessons per week. These lessons will either be taught by our PE coach Mr Moss, the class teacher or visiting cricket coach. The children will all have a series of lessons focussing on athletics, cricket and orienteering.

PSHE

In these weekly lessons the children will learn about personal safety, RSE and a unit on healthy lifestyles. More details regarding the RSE unit will be available to parents before this unit is taught.

We will also regularly refer to the ‘Zones of regulation’ as a way of explaining how we are feeling.

French

The children will have a weekly French lesson taught by their class teacher. The children will learn about ordering food and greetings ‘at the tearoom’ and also a unit about describing the weather.

Religious Education

This term’s unit is based on a philosophy unit around the subject of ‘sacrifice’ and what this term means within the contexts of different religions.

Computing

In this unit, the children explore the concept of repetition in programming using the Scratch environment. They will look at the difference between count-controlled and infinite loops, and use their knowledge to modify existing animations and games using repetition. Their final project is to design and create a game which uses repetition, applying stages of programming design throughout.

The **ZONES** of Regulation®

BLUE ZONE Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	GREEN ZONE Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	YELLOW ZONE Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	RED ZONE Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

Supporting your child's learning

In order to support your child's learning there are a range of things you can do at home, making it fun and relevant for them.

- Read with and to your child regularly – whilst we believe it is important for the children to practising reading aloud to an adult daily, they also need to listen to good quality books being read to them as an opportunity to be exposed to texts that are currently beyond their own reading capability. The children are welcome to bring and share a book during our 'Fun reading Friday' sessions.
- Do have a look on the school website for more information about how we teach maths, especially our calculation policy.
- Regularly log into spelling shed and practise a range of the games.
- Practise times tables using TT Rockstars or 'Hit the Button'. Initially focus on $2 \times 4 \times 8$ and then onto $3 \times 6 \times 9 \times 12$ this really helps the children to see the links between the sets of numbers in these groups.
- Engage your children to discussions about topical issues the world around them. There are specially produced newspapers for children as well as TV programmes such as 'Newsround' and Blue Peter.
- Visit our wonderful Saffron Walden town museum to find out more about our local area. They also have a very interesting collection of Greek artefacts.