

## Year 4 Summer Term Curriculum Letter 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now entered the Summer Term and are excited about all of the learning opportunities taking place this term. As always, we like to keep you informed about some of the learning that the children will be experiencing and how you can help and support them.

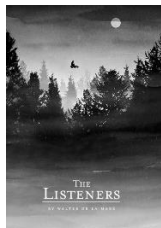
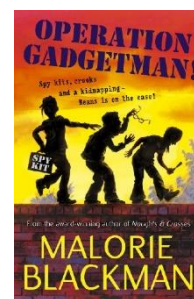


### **Theme- Many Lands, Many People**

In this exciting Theme topic, we will be exploring the history surrounding **The United States of America**. We will learn about the geography of the USA including where it is, some **key states** and how to describe the contrasting geographical features of California and Alaska; locate continents, countries and cities on maps, atlases and globes; and learn about different **Native American tribes** and what their houses, homes and daily lives were like in the past. During this theme, children will **listen to music** from different parts of the USA; take part in a Forest Schools day and **learn how to build a shelter and make a fire**; and **paint an American landscape** in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe.

### **English**

During this half term, we will be completing an extended text study exploring on Malorie Blackman's 'Operation Gadgetman.' Our entire English focus will be linked to this text for the next six weeks. We will start this unit by writing a **diary entry** from the perspective of the main character, focusing on the use of different sentence forms within their writing, fronted adverbials to show time and manner and emotive language. The children will then be focusing on apostrophes for possession and paragraphs, whilst writing a **spy kit guide book**. We will finish this unit by creating our own **adventure story**, taking inspiration from Malorie Blackman. We will be thinking carefully about how we successfully add dialogue into our stories, using the correct speech punctuation. We will send these stories home for you to read too!



In the second half of the Summer term, we will explore the poem **The Listeners** by Walter de la Mare. We will be drawing on our expert knowledge gathered during theme lessons to **write a letter**, in role of a traveler. Throughout our English sessions, we will be looking at sentence structure and word choice, and how these need to be adapted for different writing outcomes. We will also be paying particular attention to adverbs of time.

### **Mathematics**

In our maths lessons this term, the children will:



- \* Focusing on a secure understanding of decimals and place value and use money in context.
- \* Use standard units of measurement of length, capacity and mass in a range of contexts.
- \* Understand the concept of area and perimeter. They will learn how to apply their knowledge of finding area to figures in different orientations.
- \* Learn how to identify angles, shapes, and lines of symmetry and how to classify shapes.
- \* Describe position and movements and plot co-ordinates.

*To further support your child at home, we would really appreciate it if you could reinforce the work on their mental calculations around money, and support them in accurately tell the time on an analogue clock.*

**Multiplication Tables Check** - This academic year, Year 4 pupils will take part in the statutory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). The MTC is an on-screen assessment designed to determine whether pupils are able to fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12, through a set of 25 timed questions. We will be completing this online assessment in early June. Rapid recall of our times tables has been a big focus for us during the Spring Term, and will continue to be, as we move towards June.

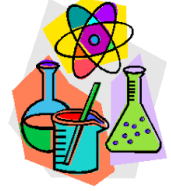
*Please can you support your child with this statutory assessment by practicing their tables. There are many online resources such as Times Table Rockstar (TTRS) or Hit the Button that the children love to complete in school.*

## Reading

It is really important that every child reads at home as regularly as possible. We would encourage you to ask lots of questions about what they have read and what they think will happen in the rest of the book. Higher order thinking skills would include inference (why a character has acted a certain way), morals and underlying messages, as well as linking to real life experiences or similar books of that genre.

## Science - "Changing States" and "Park Life"

This term, children will be learning about different states of matter: solids, liquids and gases through practical investigations. We will be learning about how materials can change state by varying the temperature using ice-cream and chocolate to help us show how materials can be frozen or melted. Yummy! We will look closely how water changes state and link this to the water cycle, before trying to create our own version!



In Summer 2, we will be completing our unit 'Park life' where the children will be working on their biology skills. The children will recognise and explore that living things can be grouped in a variety of different ways. Following on from this, the children will use their local environment to identify and study plants and animals in their habitat.



## Digital Technology Curriculum

Our learning will focus on animation this term, children will learn the basic principles of what animation is and how it can be used, drawing on examples they may recognise, such as their favourite films. They will then use PowerPoint animation technology to create their own short animation, before evaluating animations and sharing their views with known digital animators.

## Physical Education – PE

This term, we will be focusing on athletics and tennis. Children will need to have a white/blue polo shirt with dark shorts and suitable footwear. This can be kept on your child's peg in a labelled drawstring bag. Please label all of your child's items of kit. For colder days, long sleeves and joggers would be useful.

## Personal, Social and Health Education – PSHE

The unit of work the children will cover in PSHE is 'Relationships'. During these sessions the children will have the opportunity to explore their own feelings and emotions and also those of others through a range of activities. We will explore "Love and Loss" and what these feelings mean and how they can affect us. We will be discussing the special relationships we have with our family, friends and pets as well as more mature relationships we may encounter as we grow. In Summer 2, the children will be following the Jigsaw programme of study around "Changing Me". The children will learn about how their personal characteristics are a mixture of both their parents' DNA, how the female body changes as they grow and how the female body prepares for pregnancy. We will be discussing how we can prepare for changes in our life and thinking ahead. A further letter with additional information about what is covered in these sessions will be sent out during the Summer term.

## Religious Education

During Summer 1, we will be exploring what the best way is for a Buddhist to lead a good life. This topic will explore what influences us to make good/bad choices; how the noble eightfold path helps people know which decisions/choices are good; and what guidance the children would want people to live by, so that no harm came to any living thing.

During Summer 2, we will be looking at whether Christians need to go to church to show they are Christians. This topic will include looking at special places and how these special places may vary from person to person; learning about various places of worship and how these are different and similar; and exploring why Christians might decide to go to church and their reasons for doing so and reasons why other Christians may choose not to go to church at all.

## Homework

As mentioned above, please aim to read with your child as often as you can and record this in their diary. Continue to encourage your child to practise their times tables by accessing TTRS or other resources.

Many thanks for your continued support. We are looking forward to the fun and exciting term ahead!

**Mrs Howells-Peace, Mrs Lincoln and Mrs Watts - Year 4 Staff**