


Year 4 Autumn Overview

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
English	<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Fiction - Non Chronological Report <i>Species of Dragons</i> <i>Tell Me a Dragon by Jackie Morris</i></p> <p>Our hook is a mock news report of dragon sightings over Cullercoats. Children become dragonologists, writing a guide on how to detect dragons in your neighbourhood. We read and discuss <i>Tell Me a Dragon by Jackie Morris</i> and collect rich vocabulary and descriptions of dragons to use in our writing before dreaming up our own dragons, creating dragon passports and writing descriptions of our dragons. We create 'Missing' posters about our dragons and then put together an entry for the <i>Dragons of the British Isles</i> guide. Throughout the unit, our grammar work focuses on adjectives and compound adjectives, generalisers, singular and plural nouns, pronouns, cohesion and use of standard English.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fiction - A Tale of Fear: Fantasy Writing about Dragons <i>Malthor</i></p> <p>Building on our bank of ideas about dragons, we read and discuss <i>Malthor</i>, a tale of fear about a terrifying dragon. We discuss techniques used to build suspense including the use of ellipsis, 'empty' words (someone, something, a figure), repetition (he came closer and closer), short sentences and rhetorical questions. We also practice using 'Show don't Tell' methods before boxing up the story and co-constructing a toolkit for a Tale of Fear to use when writing our own tales of fear. Our grammar focus includes compound nouns, adverbials and adverbs, dialogue and inverted commas, and conjunctions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Fiction - Discussion Text <i>The Maya</i></p> <p>Building on our history unit about the Maya, we delve into writing discussion texts. Drawing on cross-curricular knowledge, we explore a thought-provoking example to identify key features such as balanced arguments, formal tone, and reasoned conclusions. Linking Key Stage 1 understanding to Key Stage 2 skills, children debate intriguing topics like 'Should the Maya be remembered for their achievements in astronomy or architecture?' Focus is placed on clear, structured reasoning, supported by evidence. Grammar skills include possessive pronouns, fronted adverbials, and prepositions to add detail and clarity. Using a co-created toolkit and a structured framework, children draft a collaborative discussion piece before independently crafting their own balanced arguments on a topic of their choice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fiction - Free Verse Poetry</p> <p>This engaging unit introduces Year 4 to the expressive world of free verse poetry, focusing on creativity and personal expression. Children begin by exploring examples of free verse, identifying how poets use language, imagery, and structure to convey emotions and ideas. They practice using vivid adjectives and precise nouns to create strong mental images, experimenting with line breaks and the rhythm of their words. Grammar skills include plural and possessive 's' and the use of commas. Inspired by themes like nature, friendship, or dreams, children craft their own free verse poems, refining their work through feedback and discussion.</p>
Maths	<p style="text-align: center;">Place Value</p> <p>Our Place Value unit builds a strong foundation for working with numbers up to 10,000. Students begin by representing and partitioning numbers to 1,000, developing their understanding of the hundreds, tens, and ones places. They extend this knowledge to numbers up to 10,000, using flexible partitioning strategies to strengthen their number sense. Key activities include using number lines to locate and estimate numbers, finding 1, 10, 100, or 1,000 more or less, and comparing and ordering numbers. Students also explore rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000, and learn to read and write Roman numerals. Through these activities, students build fluency and confidence in working with large numbers and mathematical concepts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Addition and Subtraction</p> <p>Students develop their ability to perform calculations with numbers up to 4 digits. They begin by adding and subtracting 1s, 10s, 100s, and 1,000s, building a strong foundation for more complex operations. Students progress to adding and subtracting two 4-digit numbers, starting with no exchange and moving to situations involving one or more exchanges. They also focus on efficient subtraction methods, estimating answers, and using strategies to check their work. By the end of the unit, students will have a deep understanding of addition and subtraction, and the skills to solve a wide variety of problems with accuracy and confidence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Measurement - Area</p> <p>Students explore the concept of area and how to measure it. They begin by understanding what area is and how it relates to the space covered by a shape. Students practice counting squares to measure area and use this method to create different shapes. They also compare the areas of various shapes to deepen their understanding of how size and shape affect area. Through hands-on activities and problem-solving, students build a strong grasp of area measurement and develop the skills to solve real-world problems involving space.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Multiplication and Division A</p> <p>In this Multiplication and Division unit, students build a strong understanding of key multiplication and division facts. They start by exploring multiples of 3, followed by multiplying and dividing by 6, 9, 7, 11, and 12, mastering the times-tables and division facts for each number. Students learn to multiply by 1 and 0, as well as divide a number by 1 and itself, reinforcing their number sense. They also practice multiplying three numbers together, deepening their ability to work with larger calculations. Through a variety of activities, students develop fluency and confidence in both multiplication and division, laying the groundwork for more complex operations.</p>

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<p>Science</p>	<p>States of Matter</p> <p>In this 'States of Matter' unit, children will explore the differences between solids, liquids, and gases, learning to classify objects and identify their properties. They will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas. They will have the chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate. They will explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation. they will learn about the stages of the water cycle.</p> <p><i>Scientist Study - Stephen Hawking</i></p>	<p>Animals including Humans</p> <p>This unit focuses on the digestive system in humans and animals and the functions of teeth. Children will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain. In addition, they will extend their understanding of food chains to more complex chains and food webs. We will explore questions such as:</p> <p>What do the basic parts of the digestive system in humans do? What are the different types of teeth in humans and what are their simple functions? Can you construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey?</p>
<p>Art</p>	<p>Painting Skills Focus <i>Artists - Leonardo Da Vinci and Wassily Kandinsky</i></p> <p>In this art unit we will focus on our painting skills. Pupils will focus on developing their painting techniques while exploring the works of two famous artists: Leonardo Da Vinci and Wassily Kandinsky. Through this unit, pupils will study Da Vinci's detailed and realistic approach to portraiture and the use of light and shadow, as well as Kandinsky's abstract and expressive use of colour and shape. By experimenting with these different styles, pupils will learn how to use a variety of painting techniques, from fine detail to bold abstraction, and will apply their skills to create their own artwork inspired by these masters.</p>	
<p>Computing</p>	<p>Digital literacy and Online Safety</p> <p>In this Digital Literacy and Online Safety unit from Common Sense Education's digital citizenship curriculum, children will develop key skills in using technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly. They will learn how to search the internet effectively, evaluate digital content, and understand how search results are ranked. Students will explore various software tools to create programs and present data, while developing a strong understanding of online safety. Topics include creating secure passwords, reflecting on personal identity online, and understanding the concept of digital citizenship through the Rings of Responsibility. Children will also consider the impact of words online, the importance of community norms, and how to identify altered images and videos.</p>	<p>Searching the Web</p> <p>In this <i>Searching the Web</i> unit, children will explore the fundamentals of computer networks, including the internet and how search engines work. They will learn how search results are ranked and how to use search technologies effectively, ensuring they can evaluate digital content with a discerning eye. The unit covers safe online practices and what to do in case of problems, while also focusing on respecting copyright when searching for images. Children will develop skills in refining searches, evaluating websites for reliability, and using digital maps for exploring locations. They will also gain an understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), learning to create prompts for AI chatbots and considering the potential negative uses of generative AI.</p>
<p>Design and Technology</p>	<p>Food - The Great British Bake Off</p> <p>In our Year 4 DT topic, "The Great British Bake Off," pupils will explore the world of bread-making by learning about different types of bread and evaluating existing products. They will study the ingredients used in bread, understanding how each one contributes to the texture and taste of the final product. Through hands-on activities, pupils will learn the essential skills required to make their own bread, from mixing and kneading the dough to baking it to perfection. This unit encourages creativity and practical skills, while also fostering an appreciation for the science and tradition behind bread-making.</p>	

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<p>French</p>	<p>Language Angels - Je me présente (Presenting Myself) PHONICS FOCUS LESSON: i, in, ique, ille</p> <p>In this unit, pupils will develop the skills to introduce themselves in French, both orally and in writing. They will combine previously learnt vocabulary with new language to form accurate questions and responses. Pupils will learn to give personal details such as their name, age, nationality, and where they live. Through a growing understanding of French grammar, they will begin to manipulate language and construct their own sentences, laying a foundation for more independent language use. This unit encourages confidence in communication and the practical application of their developing French vocabulary.</p>	<p>Language Angels - Ma famille (My Family)</p> <p>In this unit, pupils will learn to describe their own or a fictional family in French through both spoken and written presentations. They will build on prior knowledge, integrating new vocabulary and structures with increasing confidence. The unit focuses on developing grammar skills, particularly the use of possessives and the shift from first to third person singular, enabling learners to produce more personalised and accurate language.</p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p>Settlements</p> <p>In this unit, children head back in time to find out how the towns and cities of the UK first developed. Children will learn about the needs and requirements early settlers had when choosing a place to build a home. They will look at place names around the UK to see how the Anglo-Saxons, Romans and Vikings all left their mark. Through use of digital and paper maps, children will investigate land use in different sized settlements and the ways in which settlements are linked together. At the end of the unit, children draw together all their learning about settlements to design their own new settlement!</p>	
<p>History</p>	<p>The Maya - A Non-European Society Contrasting with British History</p> <p>In this exciting history unit, children will explore the fascinating world of the Maya. They will begin by "meeting" the Maya, learning about their culture, daily life, and achievements. The unit delves into the Maya religion and gods, examining their beliefs and rituals. Children will discover the unique Maya number system, exploring how the Maya used numbers in mathematics and astronomy. The unit also covers the exploration and discovery of the Maya civilization, examining how archaeologists uncovered their ancient cities and knowledge. Finally, children will explore Maya writing, decoding symbols, and learning about the foods the Maya ate, understanding how these elements were vital to their society.</p> <p>We explore questions including: Who did the Maya worship and why? What did important Mayan buildings look like? What does Chichen Itza look like? How do we know about the Maya?</p>	
<p>Music</p>	<p>Charanga - Mamma Mia</p> <p>As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with the well-known song Mamma Mia, children will listen and appraise more ABBA hits.</p> <p>Wider Opps - Glockenspiel with Mr Teoh</p>	<p>Charanga - Mamma Mia</p> <p>As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with the well known song Mamma Mia, children will listen and appraise more ABBA hits.</p> <p>Wider Opps - Glockenspiel with Mr Teoh</p> <p>Christmas songs</p> <p>Dance</p>
<p>PE</p>	<p>Gymnastics</p> <p>Children will develop their gymnastics skills by creating and performing sequences independently, in pairs, and in groups. They will focus on movement, balance, coordination, and flexibility, building confidence in their ability to design and execute routines.</p> <p>Hockey</p> <p>Children will learn key attack and defence skills, such as dribbling, passing, and shooting, while also understanding positioning and teamwork. The unit emphasises both individual and cooperative skills, helping children improve their physical fitness and understanding of strategy in sports.</p>	<p>Dance</p> <p>Children will explore creativity through movement, developing their own dance sequences to a given piece of music. They will practice using cannon (a movement performed by different dancers at different times), unison (all dancers moving together), and repetition to create dynamic and engaging performances.</p> <p>Tag Rugby</p> <p>Children will focus on developing tactical skills, including evasion, passing, and teamwork. They will learn to apply strategies to attack and defend, improving their understanding of the game while working collaboratively with peers to achieve common goals.</p>

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PSHE	<p style="text-align: center;">Digital Wellbeing</p> <p>Common Sense Education's digital citizenship curriculum, covering a wide range of topics including well-being, privacy and security, online identity, relationships, communication and the media.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Think Positive</p> <p>This unit is designed to build on what the children have already learnt about feelings, both comfortable and uncomfortable and how our attitude towards life can affect our mental health. The lessons centre around themes such as thinking positively and calmly, managing difficult emotions, taking responsibility for decisions and developing a growth mindset approach to learning.</p>
RE	<p style="text-align: center;">What do we know about the Bible and why is it important to Christians?</p> <p>Our topic "What do we know about the Bible and why is it so important?" encourages pupils to explore the significance of the Bible in Christianity. We delve into its structure, learning about the Old and New Testaments, and discuss key stories that have shaped moral and spiritual teachings. Through this topic, children develop an understanding of the Bible's influence on believers' lives, as well as its role in worship and cultural traditions. This helps foster respect for religious beliefs and an appreciation of the Bible's impact on society.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Why do Christians call Jesus the light of the world?</p> <p>During this RE topic we will explore the symbolism of light in Christian belief. We will discuss how Jesus is seen as a guide, bringing hope, wisdom, and comfort to his followers. Pupils will examine key Bible passages, such as Jesus declaring himself the "light of the world," and how this metaphor shapes Christian worship and festivals like Christmas and Candlemas. This topic helps children understand the significance of light in religious traditions and its importance in conveying deeper spiritual meanings.</p>