


Year 4 Spring Overview

	Spring 1	Spring 2
English	<p>Fiction - Conquering the Monster Story - <i>The Rain Player</i> by David Wisniewski The hook: a hard rubber ball arrives in the classroom with a warning note attached - would the children put themselves forward to play this game with dangerous consequences? We read <i>The Rain Player</i> and collect ideas and vocabulary then box up the story and co-construct a toolkit for a ‘conquering the monster’ story. We add to and change the original story for our innovated text then use the box it up plan and toolkit to invent our own stories. For grammar, we focus on adjectives, homophones and commas after fronted adverbials.</p> <p>Non-Fiction - Instructions - <i>How to play Pok-a-Tok</i> This dynamic unit builds on our history and English work about the Maya, focusing on writing clear and engaging instructions. Children explore the ancient game of Pok-a-Tok, analysing its rules and gameplay before studying an example set of instructions to identify key features such as step-by-step organization, precise language, and engaging introductions. Emphasis is placed on creating expanded noun phrases to add detail and clarity, as well as developing skills in editing and evaluating their work for accuracy and effectiveness. Using a co-created toolkit, children draft instructions for playing Pok-a-Tok, ensuring their writing is informative and easy to follow.</p>	<p>Fiction - Stories from other Cultures, <i>A Meeting Tale - Grandpa Chatterji</i> by Jamila Gavin This fascinating unit introduces pupils to stories from other cultures through the vibrant meeting tale <i>Grandpa Chatterji</i>. Children explore the themes, characters, and setting, identifying how cultural details enrich the narrative. They analyse the structure of a meeting tale, focusing on how events build towards key interactions between characters. Grammar skills include using determiners for precision, exploring word families to enhance vocabulary, and incorporating prepositional phrases to add detail and depth. Inspired by the story, children plan and write their own meeting tale, weaving in cultural elements and descriptive language. The unit culminates in sharing their stories, celebrating the richness of diverse storytelling traditions.</p> <p>Non-Fiction - Explanation Text - <i>Electricity</i> This informative unit focuses on explanation texts, linking our science learning about the water cycle and electricity to purposeful writing. Children begin by studying an explanation text about electricity, identifying key features such as clear structure, technical vocabulary, and logical sequencing. They practice using correct verb tenses to describe processes, determiners to add precision, and prepositional phrases to explain relationships and locations. Building on these skills, children plan and write their own explanation of the water cycle, ensuring their writing is detailed, accurate, and easy to follow. The unit concludes with children presenting their explanations, reinforcing their understanding of scientific processes while developing their writing skills.</p>
Maths	<p>Multiplication and Division B In this Multiplication and Division unit, students deepen their understanding of number relationships and operations. They begin by exploring factor pairs and using them in multiplication and division problems. Students then practice multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, building fluency in working with larger numbers. They apply related facts for multiplication and division and learn informal written methods for solving problems. As they progress, students multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number and a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number, as well as divide 2- and 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. Students also tackle correspondence problems and focus on efficient multiplication strategies. This unit fosters confidence and proficiency in handling more complex multiplication and division tasks.</p> <p>Length and Perimeter In this Length and Perimeter unit, students explore various ways to measure and calculate lengths and perimeters. They begin by measuring in kilometres and metres, and then work with equivalent lengths to strengthen their understanding of these units. Students practice calculating perimeter on a grid and progress to finding the perimeter of rectangles and rectilinear shapes. They also solve problems involving missing lengths in rectilinear shapes and calculate the total perimeter of these shapes. Finally, students explore the perimeter of regular polygons and general polygons, building their skills in measurement and enhancing their ability to solve real-world problems involving perimeter.</p>	<p>Fractions A In this Fractions unit, students develop a deep understanding of fractions and how to work with them in various contexts. They begin by understanding the concept of a whole and progress to counting beyond 1. Students explore partitioning mixed numbers and using number lines to represent them. They learn to compare and order mixed numbers and understand improper fractions. Students then practice converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions and explore equivalent fractions on a number line. As they advance, students learn about equivalent fraction families and work on adding and subtracting fractions, including mixed numbers. Through hands-on activities, students build confidence in solving fraction problems and apply their knowledge to real-world situations.</p> <p>Decimals A In this Decimals A unit, students explore the relationship between fractions and decimals, starting with tenths and moving on to hundredths. They begin by understanding tenths as fractions and decimals, and practice representing tenths on a place value chart and number line. Students also learn how to divide 1-digit and 2-digit numbers by 10. They then explore hundredths as both fractions and decimals, representing them on a place value chart and using number lines. Finally, students practice dividing 1- and 2-digit numbers by 100, building their understanding of decimal notation and division. This unit helps students gain fluency in working with decimals and prepares them for more advanced concepts.</p>

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<p>Science</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sound</p> <p>In this 'Sound' unit, children will explore how vibrations create sound, how sounds travel, and how pitch and loudness can change. They will investigate sound through hands-on activities, such as creating a human model to demonstrate how sound vibrations travel and conducting a sound survey around school. Children will learn about pitch by designing their own set of pan pipes and explore how materials affect sound by making and testing a string telephone. They will work collaboratively to investigate the best material for soundproofing and create a musical instrument that demonstrates high, low, loud, and quiet sounds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Scientist Study - Alexander Graham Bell</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Electricity</p> <p>This unit is the first introduction to studying electricity in Key Stage 2. Children will learn about what electricity is and how it was discovered. They will identify which appliances use electricity in their homes and how to keep themselves safe. Children will construct circuits, start to create pictorial circuits and conduct an investigation into how easily different types of switches can break and reconnect a circuit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Scientist Study - Garrett Morgan</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>British Science Week</i></p>
<p>Art</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sculpture Focus - Artists - Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore</p> <p>During this art unit, pupils will explore the world of sculpture through the works of renowned artists Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore. They will study how both artists used organic shapes and forms to create expressive sculptures, focusing on their use of space and texture. Throughout the unit, pupils will learn clay handling and shaping techniques, experimenting with molding and carving to create their own sculptural designs. This topic encourages both art appreciation and hands-on practice, allowing pupils to develop their skills in 3D artwork while gaining an understanding of the significance of sculpture in the art world.</p>	
<p>Computing</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programming Scratch Maze Games</p> <p>Children will learn key coding concepts such as algorithms, repetition, conditions, and variables, using Scratch's block-based coding language. They will build their own adventure maze games, designing custom levels, characters, and objects to collect. Through this hands-on experience, students will develop problem-solving skills as they create interactive games, applying their understanding of coding principles to bring their designs to life. The unit encourages creativity while reinforcing logical thinking and computational skills, providing children with the foundation to continue exploring coding and game design.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Getting started with a Crumble3D</p> <p>Children will explore the exciting world of physical computing using the Crumble microcontroller. They will learn about inputs, outputs, electrical circuits, and how to control LEDs and motors. Through hands-on STEM projects, students will apply these concepts to create interactive systems, developing a deeper understanding of how technology works. The unit fosters problem-solving skills and creativity as children design and build their own projects, giving them a strong foundation in electronics and coding for future exploration in physical computing.</p>
<p>Design and Technology</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Electrical Systems - Crumble</p> <p>In our Year 4 DT topic, "Electrical Systems," pupils will explore simple programming and control through the use of a Crumble, a small electronic controller board. They will design and create a working product by connecting electrical components, such as a battery and other parts, in a series of circuits to achieve a functional outcome. Pupils will also learn how to program a standalone control box or microcontroller to enhance the way their product works, gaining hands-on experience with basic electronics and programming. This unit encourages problem-solving, creativity, and understanding of how electrical systems can be used to bring their designs to life.</p>	
<p>French</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Language Angels - La date (The Date)</p> <p>In this unit, pupils will learn, revise, and consolidate key vocabulary including days of the week, months of the year, and numbers 1-31. Through engaging activities, they will develop the skills to say and write the date in French, as well as to say when their birthday falls. This unit builds confidence in using calendar-related language and lays the foundation for future time-based topics.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Language Angels - En classe (In the Classroom)</p> <p>This unit enables pupils to confidently describe what they have or do not have in their pencil cases and school bags, both orally and in written French. Building on prior grammar knowledge, students expand their vocabulary and deepen their understanding of the negative form. They develop increasing independence in constructing accurate and meaningful responses.</p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Rivers and the Water Cycle</p> <p>In the <i>Rivers and the Water Cycle</i> unit, children will explore key concepts related to water movement and the role of rivers. They will learn about the hydrological cycle, understanding how water moves through the environment, and where it goes. Topics include permeability, which looks at how water passes through different materials, and the structure of a river course. Children will identify the main features of a river, such as the source, tributaries, and mouth, and learn about major rivers in the UK. The unit also covers the stages of a river's course, from source to mouth, and how rivers shape the landscape.</p>	

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<p>History</p>	<p>The Maya - A Non-European Society Contrasting with British History 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>A Local History Study - Cullercoats and the Tyne Children will explore the history of their local area, focusing on Cullercoats and the River Tyne. They will study the chronology of local events, tracing key developments over time. The unit includes an investigation into how St Mary's Island has changed, with a close look at historical and environmental factors that have shaped it. Through a map study, children will examine how the local area has evolved, identifying significant changes in landmarks, land use, and infrastructure. This unit helps children understand the historical context of their own community.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>Charanga - Lean on Me Children will learn the interrelated dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc.), that singing and playing instruments are all linked. Children will learn the importance of keeping focused on musical learning; the integration of musical learning/practice is key everyone needs to be active musicians.</p> <p>Wider Opps - Ukulele with Mr Teoh</p>	<p>Charanga - Lean on Me Children will learn the interrelated dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc.), that singing and playing instruments are all linked. Children will learn the importance of keeping focused on musical learning; the integration of musical learning/practice is key everyone needs to be active musicians.</p> <p>Wider Opps - Ukulele with Mr Teoh</p>
<p>PE</p>	<p>Badminton Children will focus on developing striking and fielding skills, learning how to effectively serve, rally, and return the shuttlecock. They will practice techniques for control, accuracy, and consistency, enhancing their hand-eye coordination and strategic thinking during the game.</p> <p>Basketball Children will focus on teamwork, resilience, perseverance, and sportsmanship. They will practice essential basketball skills, such as dribbling, shooting, passing, and defending, while learning how to work together as a team. The unit will also encourage positive attitudes toward competition, emphasizing the importance of fair play and supporting teammates.</p>	<p>Gymnastics Children will focus on developing their gymnastics skills, building sequences with greater complexity and control. They will work on balance, coordination, flexibility, and strength while incorporating new movements into their routines. Children will perform independently and in pairs or groups, enhancing their confidence and ability to execute precise movements.</p> <p>Tennis Children will develop racket skills, focusing on various striking techniques such as forehand, backhand, and volleys. They will practice aiming at targets, improving their accuracy and control while learning the strategies of positioning and timing in a game setting.</p>
<p>PSHE</p>	<p>Safety First In this unit of work, children will consider what it means to take responsibility for their own safety. This will include the decisions they make and how they can stand up to peer pressure in a range of situations. They will learn about everyday risks, hazards and dangers and what to do in risky or dangerous situations. They will also learn about road, water and rail safety and dangerous substances: drugs (including medicines), cigarettes and alcohol. Children will look at first aid, exploring how to deal with common injuries and what to do to respond to emergency situations.</p>	<p>Growing Up This topic builds on children's knowledge of the human body; how we grow and change, both physically and emotionally. Children will learn about their own and others' bodies and how male and female bodies play a part in human reproduction. They will also learn about different relationships and family structures.</p>
<p>RE</p>	<p>What do Christians believe about Jesus? In our Year 4 RE topic, "What do Christians believe about Jesus?", we investigate the core beliefs that Christians hold about Jesus Christ. Pupils learn about Jesus' life, his teachings, and his role as the Son of God. We explore key events such as his birth, crucifixion, and resurrection, and discuss their significance in Christian faith. Through this topic, children gain insight into why Jesus is central to Christian worship and how his message influences the lives of believers today. This helps pupils develop a broader understanding of Christian beliefs and practices.</p>	<p>Why is Lent such an important period for Christians? In this topic we will explore the significance of this time of reflection and preparation leading up to Easter. Pupils will learn about the 40 days of Lent, recalling Jesus' time in the wilderness, and how Christians use this period for fasting, prayer, and repentance. We will discuss the practices associated with Lent, such as giving up something meaningful and performing acts of kindness. This topic helps children understand how Lent helps Christians to grow in their faith and prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter.</p>