



Year 4 Curriculum Overview

Term 1 2026–27

Discover what your child will be learning this term.

English

Writing - Varmints

This term's study of the text *Varmints* will inspire a variety of writing outcomes, including setting descriptions using advanced grammar and vocabulary, character-empathising diary entries, and narratives using dialogue, action, and suspense. Additionally, we will create non-chronological reports using our research and, while improving our proofreading and editing skills.

Key vocabulary: tranquility, fragile, sustaining, industrialisation, preservation, resilience.

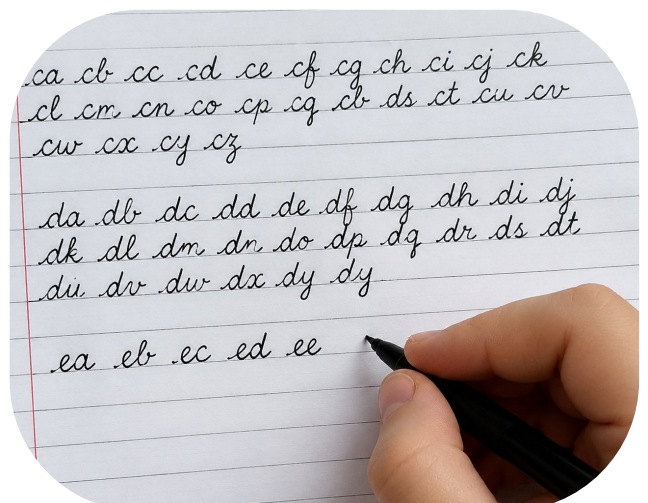


Reading

As we begin Year 4, we will continue to deepen our reading comprehension through four guided reading lessons each week and a weekly library session. The focus will be on developing reading skills, including retrieval, inference, explanation, prediction, summarising and evaluating an author's language and choices.

Spelling and Handwriting

The children will continue to develop accurate spelling and a fluent, neat handwriting style through three spelling lessons and two Letter-join handwriting lessons each week. This term, we will further develop confidence and consistency to neatly write in cursive. Weekly spellings will be sent home as part of homework to support regular practice.



Maths

Number, Calculation & Area

This term, we will study place value (rounding, partitioning, and representing 4-digit numbers), addition and subtraction (working with 4-digit numbers with exchanges and estimation strategies), multiplication and division (times tables up to 12, factor pairs, multiplying three numbers, and powers of 10), and area (finding the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares).

Key Vocabulary: place value, exchanges, factors, rectilinear

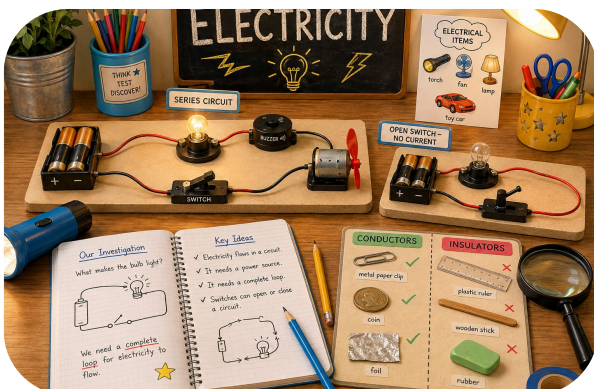


Science

Electricity

In Term 1, we will explore electricity by identifying everyday electrical appliances and building simple series circuits with cells, wires, bulbs, switches, and buzzers. We will learn how complete loops and switches control current to light a lamp, know the difference between common conductors and insulators, and carry out scientific investigations to apply our knowledge.

Key Vocabulary: circuits, cells, switches, wires, bulbs, motors, buzzers, conductors, insulators.



Computing

Online Safety

The children will be learning how to manage information safely online; identify 'fake' and 'accurate' information and how to safely share information online. Children will confidently and regularly use text shortcuts like cut, copy, paste, and delete to organise text effectively. Additionally, we will know how to create and publish our own online questionnaires and analyse the gathered data.

Key vocabulary: Cut, copy, paste, online, questionnaire, formatting.

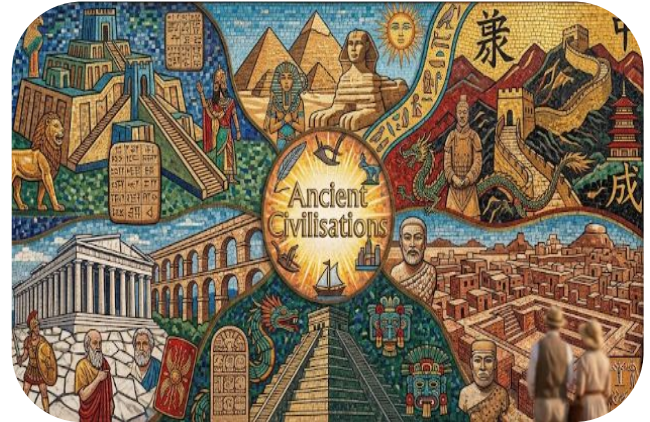


Humanities

Ancient Civilisations

In this unit, our overall enquiry question is: How have Ancient Civilisations impacted the modern world? Children will explore the achievements of the earliest civilisations, an overview of where and when the first civilisations appeared, and a deeper study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer, The Indus Valley, Ancient Egypt, The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China.

Key Vocabulary: Settlement, trade, irrigation, waste disposal, cuneiform, agriculture, irrigation, dynasty, emperor.

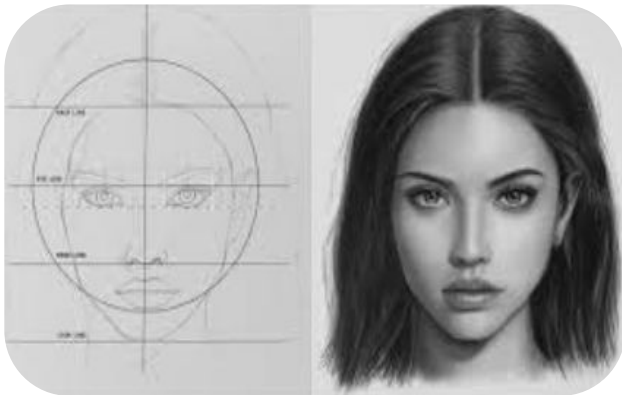


Art and Design

Drawing

This term, we will be developing key sketching and drawing skills in Art, focusing on line, shading, texture, and facial proportions. We will focus on recreating individual facial features and then, using these new techniques, we will work towards creating a final detailed portrait.

Key Vocabulary: Perspective, Proportion, Cross-hatching, Stippling, Shadow, Portrait.



Design and Technology

Structures

In our Design and Technology unit on Structures, we will design and build custom 3D packaging for a product. We start by choosing a target audience and exploring how shapes, graphics, and structure attract buyers. Next, we will use flat 2D nets with tabs and fold lines. We will then cut, fold, and make our nets into three-dimensional boxes. Finally, we evaluate our finished products, testing its strength, functionality, and visual appeal.

Key Vocabulary: nets, design, tabs, product, audience.



Machine Music

Key Vocabulary: Ostinato, Tempo, Timbre, Dynamics, Graphic Score, Texture



Relationships

Key Vocabulary: Confidence, Self Esteem, Failure, Unique, Ethnicity, Support, Challenge



Key Vocabulary: Transition, Tactics, Counter balance, Counter tension, Sequence, Control, Water safety





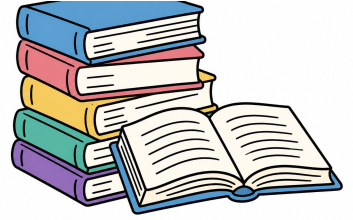
Supporting Learning at Home

Useful websites, activities and ways to help your child.

Make Reading Part of Everyday Life

Encourage your child to read for pleasure, not just as part of their homework. Build reading into your daily routine and choose physical books wherever possible to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Show an interest in what they are reading by asking about the story, characters and what they think might happen next. Talking about books together is one of the best ways to develop confident, enthusiastic readers.



Useful Websites	
English	https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years
Maths	Key Stage 2 Maths - Topmarks Search Primary Students NRICH Times Tables Rock Stars
Science	Key Stage 2 Science - Topmarks Search
Humanities	Ancient Civilisations
Art & Design	How to Draw a Face: Time-Lapse Drawing Technique Nose How to Draw Nose for Beginners 2024 How to draw lips easy step by step for beginners Drawing lips easy drawing tutorials for beginners
Music	Chrome Music Lab
General Learning	DK Learning

Please supervise your child when accessing websites at home and encourage a balanced approach to screen time.

Support Spelling & Handwriting at Home

A few minutes of regular practice can make a big difference. Encourage your child to practise their weekly spelling words in different ways, such as saying, writing, covering and testing themselves, rather than simply copying them out.

Handwriting is also easy to practise at home. Spending just a few minutes writing neatly in pen, focusing on fluent, joined handwriting, will help develop confidence, speed and presentation across all subjects.

