

Topic Learning Letter

Year 4 Autumn Term 2023

Topic	Our topic for the first two half terms is <i>Egyptian Exploration</i> .
Launch and Land	We are going to launch our <i>Egyptian Exploration</i> topic by re-enacting Howard Carter's famous discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb to begin learning about the Egyptians. For our land, we are looking forward to our trip to the Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge for an Ancient Egyptian day.
Trips / Visitors	We are looking forward to our trip to the Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge for an Ancient Egyptian day. We will also be inviting parents in for our class assemblies to celebrate our work. More details to follow later.
Science	In autumn 1, we will explore grouping and classifying using local plants as a basis. We will be using the forest school site at Herbert's Farm to assist with this. In autumn 2, our focus turns to teeth where we will be using a range of primary and secondary sources to help us understand how we can maintain healthy teeth and gums.
History/Geography	In history, we will be investigating the question: Is there any evidence that the curse of the mummy's tomb is real? In geography, we will be looking at the continent of Africa. We will start with map work and then move on to understanding where and how different types of food are obtained in Africa.
Design and Technology / Art	In art, we will be painting and learning about the impressionists Monet and Cezanne. We will learn about different brush types and styles before creating some Egyptian style painting including hieroglyphics. In D.T, we will be investigating, designing and making shadufs and cranes to tie in with our Egyptian topic.
Music	In music, we will learn about Egyptian and African music styles. We will use a range of instruments, including drums, to play and compose African style music.
PSHE	In autumn 1, our whole school focus in P.S.H.E is The Zones of Regulation. This is a curriculum geared toward helping children gain skills in consciously regulating their actions, which in turn leads to increased control and problem-solving abilities. In autumn 2, we will be celebrating difference.
RE	In autumn 1, study Christianity and explore the question; Where do religious beliefs come from? In autumn 2, we study different religions' views on God.
Reminders	In autumn 1, our P.E days will be on Wednesday and Friday. In autumn 2, the children will be swimming on Mondays and P.E will continue on Fridays. Please remember to bring your reading book in every day. There are always opportunities to read with your child!

If you have any questions or concerns at all please talk to one of the Year 4 Team.

Reading matters

As well as building up fluency and reading independently, children in Year 4 still need the opportunity to read with an adult. We really want all our junior children to have a bedtime story – you are never too old to enjoy a bedtime story.

Not only is it a great way to settle into bed (and off those screens), but it is a great way to connect as well as explore new vocabulary. These are also great stories for you. After years of enduring Biff and Kipper, why not give yourself a treat with one of these books? Please choose a book from this list or the school library, local library or from a bookshelf at home to read together each night. Remember to record which book you have chosen in your child's planner.

Suggested reading list for Year 4

The Firework Maker's Daughter by Phillip Pullman

Malkin Moonlight by Emma Cox

Operation Gadgetman by Malorie Blackman

How to Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell

The Accidental Prime Minister by Tom McLaughlin

Bill's New Frock by Anne Fine

The Snow Walker's Son by Catherine Fisher

Perry Angel's Suitcase by Glenda Millard

Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne

Desirable by Frank Cottrell Boyce

The Thirteen Story Treehouse by Andy Griffiths

The Children of Green Knowe by Lucy M Boston

Lizzie Dripping by Helen Cresswell

The Great Elephant Chase by Gillian Cross

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

If your child is not into stories, look at a non-fiction book together. There are many great ones about Ancient Egypt.