

# Year 4



## NEWSLETTER

Hello!

What a great first term we have had and we are so proud of how the children have adapted to the new school routines. Just look at how much we have covered since the start of the autumn term. It has been very busy in Lower Key Stage 2 and we're not sure how we've managed to fit so many activities in! Here is a snapshot of what we have been doing in Year 4 for you to enjoy!



In Numeracy, we have been practising our mental arithmetic skills and have been working very hard to learn our times tables. We really enjoy using Times Tables Rock Stars to improve the speed of our recall. This will help us for the end of Year 4 Times Table Check in the summer term. This will continue to be a major focus for all of the children in Year 4. We have all done a lot of work on place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division.



This term, we have been concentrating on learning a variety of figurative language such as; alliteration, personification, metaphors and similes. We have loved looking at the book 'Escape from Pompeii' where we have written in a variety of genres such as; setting descriptions, narratives, predictions, comparative writing, persuasive writing and a non-chronological report about Italy and Mount Vesuvius. We have also looked at another book called 'The King who Banned the Dark'. We have enjoyed making inferences, writing a persuasive letter and having debates. We have also worked hard with our grammar and spellings, helping the children to further improve their writing.

The children have really embraced our topic about 'Romans in our Local Area'. They have used their prior knowledge to help them understand what life was like in settlements and significant buildings around the Peterborough area. We have been looking at the significance of the settlement of Durobrivae and its transport links because of Ermine Street, we have been analysing sources, ordering events in chronological order and looking at why Longthorpe fortress was built. During the second half term we have been studying 'Road Trip around the UK'. This involved understanding the location of Peterborough, exploring capital cities, cities, counties, and countries. the difference between the UK and Great Britain as well as using grid references within an atlas to find human features and physical features.



In Science during the first half term, we learnt about how light travels and how it is reflected as well as investigating different materials and the shadows that they produce. We finished the half term by putting our science knowledge together and creating a shadow puppet theatre. For the second half term we've been looking at Electricity. The children learnt about circuits, mains and battery power. We investigated insulators and conductors, what components can be included in a circuit. The children loved problem solving and using the electrical equipment.





Year 4 are very lucky to have a specialist P.E coach who comes to school every week for their indoor P.E. sessions. The children began developing their fitness skills which involved strength, stamina, speed, agility and power. In the second half term, they improved their fundamental skills such as running, jumping, skipping, hopping, dodging and balancing. In addition to this, in outdoor PE we have been developing our skills in Tag Rugby and Football. PE lessons are great opportunities to learn important life skills such as; fair play, perseverance, team work, determination and being able to challenge themselves.

Year 4 have been working hard in their French lessons. They have been looking at the topic 'How I Look' This involves learning about the body parts, describing themselves and facial features. Well done Year 4.....or should that be tres bien?

In Design Technology, we used our knowledge of sound to create panpipes. This involved planning, making instructions, using measuring and sawing skills to cut the tubes. The children then evaluated their panpipes



Since September, Year 4 have enjoyed weekly samba drumming lessons that have been provided by Peterborough Music Hub. They have impressed each other with their musicality, skills and confidence. They have even been able to showcase their talents to other schools whilst participating in the concert. As well as this, the children did an amazing performance to the whole school in assembly.

Year 4 were incredibly lucky to have a trip to Peterborough Cathedral. They learnt about the Christmas story and significance of Christmas, they looked at the geographical location of the Cathedral and found important places in Peterborough. We looked at stained glass windows and how they tell stories - the children then made their own stained-glass windows. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day out.

During December, we had a Paleoquest visit. Year 4 had a great time identifying and observing rocks and fossils. The children loved being a palaeontologist and excavating fossils beneath the sand.

The children enjoyed having Obie visiting them in the classroom and loved meeting and stroking him. It was wonderful to see so many smiley faces.

Finally, it just remains to say thank you for all of your support this term. The staff and children are very glad for all the help we have received. It is very much appreciated. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a restful holiday and we will see you again for more adventures in January 2024.

Best Wishes for a very happy holiday from the Year 4 team.

