



Inspire Education Trust
Together we achieve, individually we grow

Year 4 Curriculum Letter - Autumn 2023



Whittle
Academy

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to Year 4! We hope that you and your family had a great summer. We are delighted to have the children back in school and are very much looking forward to what is to come. The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed about the learning the children will be doing during the Autumn Term.

Theme – Egyptian Discoveries

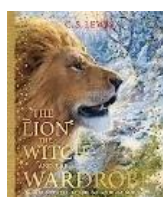


This Term our topic is 'The Egyptian Discoveries'. Within this theme, the children will be exploring Ancient Egypt, key facts about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation, geographical features of Egypt including location and physical features as well as key information about pyramids, pharaohs, mummies and beliefs in the afterlife. We will be developing personal skills such as communication and teamwork through fun activities such as presenting a TV programme. The children will also have the opportunity to engage in 'memorable experiences' such as a 'time travelling'



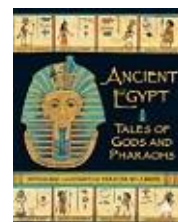
experience to discover an ancient tomb, being archaeologists by exploring Ancient Egyptian artefacts, making death masks and storage jars and also watching a very special performance by the Hobgoblin Theatre. We hope that the children are as excited about the theme as we are! Be sure to ask them about the topic as it progresses.

English



During this term, the children will have the opportunity to experience a range of contemporary fiction and non-fiction texts. To start the term, the children will be exploring the story 'The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe' and getting creative and descriptive through purposeful writing such as character descriptions and diary entries. Following this, children will then have super opportunities to immerse themselves further into the 'Egyptian Discoveries' theme with some great, rich and varied texts. 'Daily Life in Ancient Egypt' will provide children with lots of information to allow the children to write a detailed information text. Following this, 'Tales of Gods and Pharaohs' is full of great comic-strip style stories and children will even

get to make their very own traditional tale. The children will then explore newspaper articles in preparation for making an article about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.



Alongside this, the children will be continuously developing their reading skills through a wide variety of different texts to improve their understanding of the different content domains: word meanings, retrieve, summarise, infer, predict, connect, word choices and compare.

Mathematics



During this term, the children will be beginning with a focus on number and place value which will give children a greater confidence in their number recognition, including comparing, ordering, identifying, estimating and rounding numbers beyond 1000. The children will then use both mental and formal, written methods for the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. There will be a strong focus upon times tables and the instant recall of times table in preparation for the statutory Multiplication Tables Check that takes place at the end of Year 4. The children will then move onto fractions and decimals including writing equivalents, adding and subtracting. They will also be

completing weekly arithmetic sessions to recap on any key arithmetic skills such as times tables, addition and subtraction. The children will have the opportunity to consolidate prior learning during our maths starters.

Within our maths learning there will be lots of opportunities for practical experiences, using maths in real life contexts and drawing on previous learning and experiences. We will be ensuring to cover any 'gaps in learning' from Year 3 as well as ensuring that the children are 'challenged and stretched' as appropriate.

Science

This term in Year 4 Science, children will be covering the following units:

- In a State

During this topic, the children will learn all about comparing and grouping materials into solids, liquids and gases. The children will sort different materials, understand what a solid, liquid and gas is, investigating if all liquids are runny, exploring if spaces are really empty and asking which drink is the fizziest.

- Good Vibrations

During this topic, the children will learn all about sound! They will be able to understand how sounds are made, explore how sound travels, investigate how to change the pitch of sounds, answer which material will make the best ear defenders and explore how sound can be boosted.

Personal, Social and Health Education - PSHE

Our first Jigsaw theme this term is 'Being Me in My World' where the children will think about what it means to be a class team and a school citizen with our rights, responsibilities and democracy. They will then be 'Celebrating Difference', looking at kindness, difference and inclusion. We will continue having weekly Thrive class assemblies, that will support the children's emotional health, well-being and social skills. This allows the children to develop their voice in order to express their needs and feelings.



Physical Education - PE



This term's activities will include PE and Orienteering, which will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays. As a school, we have made the decision that to maximise learning time, children can come to school in their PE kits on PE days. Children should wear their PE kit to school on these days to maximise learning time. Just a reminder that children are required to wear a white t-shirt and dark coloured shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms. Children should have their blue school jumper, cardigan or fleece over the top of their PE t-shirt. Earrings must be taken out or covered and as in school, long hair must be tied back. Please support this vital area of the curriculum by helping children to bring the correct changes of clothes to school for these sessions.

Digital Technology

Our outcome for Digital Technology this term is to create an informative PowerPoint presentation around our 'Egyptian Discoveries' theme learning. In order to do this, we will be changing backgrounds, proofreading and editing digital text, inserting and editing images, adding text, using animations and transitions and improving upon presentations.



Languages

The children will continue to practice hearing and saying Spanish words and phrases through songs and rhymes as well as developing accurate pronunciation as they go. In the Autumn term we will be exploring:



- Asking and answering questions
- Counting with numbers 1-20
- Identifying days and months
- Using common nouns

Religious Education – RE

Within Religious Education, the children will be exploring the following key question over the course of the term:

- How special is the relationship Jews have with God?
- What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?



Home Learning

- Children are expected to be **reading** to an adult at least 3 times a week, and independently change their books on a regular basis, varying between home reading books and school library books to encourage a wider range of texts being read, whilst promoting a love of reading. Please log any reading in the reading diary and encourage your child to note any independent reading they do too.



- **Times Tables Rockstars** is an excellent way for children to practise and consolidate their times table knowledge which is extremely important in Year 4 ready for the statutory Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. The children will be set weekly battles against other classes and year groups in order to compete for rewards. Look out for the TTRS section on the weekly newsletter to see more about this.
- In conjunction with the 50 Things to do before you are 11 ¾ by the National Trust, children have the opportunity to complete activities as part of the **Inspire Challenge Awards**. Once children complete a challenge, children will receive a sticker with the specific logo of the challenge to collect in their booklet. At the end of the year, if all challenges have been completed, children will receive their year group specific reward at a special award ceremony.



Trips

Throughout the year, the children will have a variety of opportunities to enhance their curriculum offer with trips and visits. Please look out for communication in relation to trips and experiences in the near future.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is a communication platform to keep you informed of your children's work as well as any key information that we need to share with you on a daily basis. Please ensure you keep up to date with messages posted out on Dojo as we use this as our daily means of communication. If you are having any difficulties accessing this, please let us know.

As always, many thanks for your continued support. We are all very excited about the learning ahead during this term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Miss Starkey,
Year 4 Team