



CURRICULUM NOTES – 2016 / 2017

YEAR 4

Welcome to Year 4. We hope that you are feeling refreshed and relaxed after the Summer break and are now looking forward to supporting your son or daughter during the coming year. We hope that you will find this guide brief, informative and useful, but should you require any further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Langley, Miss Furness or Mrs Symons.

Homework

Children will have a weekly spelling list to practise every night and we encourage rehearsal of times tables each night to support their classwork. Occasionally incomplete class work may also be sent home. We would also strongly encourage the children to read each night with parent supervision.

Timetable

Please find enclosed a copy of your child's class timetable. This is a guideline only, and staff reserve the right to rearrange lessons as the curriculum or circumstances require. Instrumental lessons often take place during designated lesson times and it is the child's responsibility to make up missed work from the appropriate teacher or one of his/her peers. We expect the children to take note of the timetable and ensure that they are suitably equipped for all lessons.

Personal Belongings

We would like each child to bring to school the following items, which should be named.

- A pencil case containing HB pencils (no more than 4), an eraser, a sharpener, and a set of colouring pencils
- A glue stick
- A standard length ruler (30 cm)
- A Berol Handwriting Pen

Summer Term Trip to Battisborough House

Parents will be invited to a meeting to discuss the forthcoming residential trip which will take place in May.

Curriculum

Year 4 finds the children building on the foundations laid down in Year 3. Skills and concepts in each subject are consolidated and new ones are introduced and developed mainly in accordance with the new National Curriculum requirements for Key Stage 2.

As the year progresses, the children should be aiming to concentrate their efforts more fully on the task in hand so that they develop a sense of pride in their work, as well as a determination to achieve their personal best. These skills combine to help them develop a more independent approach.

Year 4 aims to encourage the development of a cohesive and supportive year group, and the field trip contributes to this team building theme through shared experiences as they live and work together away from home for the first time.

English

Grammar:	nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions and prefixes
Punctuation:	capital letters, full stops, apostrophes of contraction and possession, commas, question marks and exclamation marks
Creative Writing:	descriptive, imaginative, personal, letters, poetry, informative, explanatory texts and persuasive writing
Spelling:	letter strings, plural endings, silent letters, topical vocabulary and common errors
Speaking:	talking about a hobby or presenting on independent learning topics, assembly presentations, poetry recitation, and reading aloud
Research Skills:	ongoing development of skills in reading, handwriting, book reviews and drafting of written work

Mathematics

Revision:	addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, tables and place value
Time:	analogue, digital, 12 hour + 24 hour clock
Fractions:	equivalents, mixed and improper
Shape:	2D, 3D, angles and triangles
Measurement:	length, weight, capacity and volume
Symmetry	
Money	
Decimals	
Graphs	
Co-Ordinates and Position	
Perimeter and Area	
Roman Numerals	
Mental Maths	

Science

- Moving and Growing
- Circuits and Conductors
- Keeping Warm
- Solids, Liquids and Mixtures
- Habitats
- Forces and Friction

Computing and ICT

The children will cover a range of activities using different forms of technology, specifically PCs and iPads. At Hall Grove we have a range of software programs, which are not only enjoyable, but ensure safe development of their ICT skills. In addition to their timetabled lessons, the children will have many opportunities to practise their skills in a variety of contexts across the curriculum. Children will be provided with skills to ensure e-safety when using the internet and develop confidence in their computing ability.

History

- The Victorians
- The Vikings
- The Egyptians

Geography

- Volcanoes and Earthquakes

- Understanding Maps
- Improving the environment
- World Geography
- Batisborough and Coastlines
- India - Landscape and Culture

French

In Year 4, the emphasis is very much on hearing and speaking the language. Children will hear French spoken by the teacher and by native speakers on CD. They will learn to give information in French, such as their name and how to spell it, where they live, how old they are, as well as to ask questions to others and to respond to instructions. There will be a variety of activities, songs and games to encourage them to use French and to enjoy the challenge of operating in a different language.

Religious Studies

- Learning about the Bible
- The Creation Story
- Noah
- The seasonal stories of Christmas and Easter
- Some miracles of Jesus
- Introduction to Hinduism

PSHE

Personal, Social and Health Education, with Citizenship, will be taught as a discrete lesson. This 'subject' may be best described as 'Life Skills', where the children will have opportunities to give views and opinions on themes that relate to their lives at their age. Various issues will be discussed and explored (e.g. in role-play) in the safe environment of the classroom under the careful supervision of the teacher.

Music

The emphasis of the music lessons for Year 4 is upon practical music making and full participation. The students will work within a series of topics such as Myths and Legends, Space and Time with a view to making their musical work relevant to other areas of interest that they may have.

All of the projects that Year 4 pupils are involved in focus on one or more areas of study - Performance, Composing and Listening. The study of music notation will be developed continuously throughout the year, ensuring a good basic level of understanding for all.

Dance and Drama

The increased provision of Dance and Drama this year at Hall Grove offers pupils an exciting opportunity to be physically creative and expressive within fun and challenging lessons. Whether it be learning a new style of dance such as Jazz, Contemporary or Street, or addressing social or political issues in Drama, pupils will have the chance to explore and develop their own ideas through material designed to promote personal, social and cultural development.

Art - Ceramics - Design Technology (DT)

In Art, children will build upon basic skills. Studies will include: observational drawing techniques, painting, studying the art of the Aborigines, the Egyptians and exploring pattern and design using a range of media.

In Ceramics, children will be creating a shell-inspired vessel with soft slabs and a shaker using the pinch technique inspired by their own observational drawings of shells and natural forms. The children return to the slab roller for their Egyptian mask project where they also explore surface texture using a range of implements and various glazes.

The main emphasis in DT will be placed around the safe and correct handling of tools and equipment. Children will be given the opportunity to design and make simple wooden frames, which they will then test and evaluate. Pupils will also have the opportunity to design and make wallets.

SENCO

Mrs Leech is the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) who coordinates our approach to and delivery of the curriculum for pupils with special educational needs. This may involve drawing up individual Education Health and Care plans (EHCs) and/or communicating the specific needs of individuals to staff and parents – this enables us to cater more effectively for these pupils and enriches their educational experience.

Reporting to Parents

Autumn Term – there will be Parent Interviews, and you will receive two sets of assessment grades and an End of Term Report outlining your child's progress in English, Mathematics and Science.

Spring Term – you will receive two sets of assessment grades and there will be Parent Interviews.

Summer Term – you will receive two sets of assessment grades, one set of exam results and a full End of Term Report on all subjects.

We are always happy to see you regarding any worries or concerns. We would like to feel that we are all working together and if queries are dealt with at an early stage then crises can be kept to a minimum and your children can look forward to a happy and productive year.

Mrs Langley, Miss Furness and Mrs Symons