Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Term 2026

A very warm welcome back to this new academic year at Cannon Lane Primary School. Please find below an outline of the Year 4 Curriculum this term:

	This term, Year 4 will be exploring a variety of exciting texts and writing styles. The children will begin with Henry's Freedom Box, using this powerful historical text to inspire informal letter writing and to support their learning about the transatlantic slave trade. Linked to Year 4's Ancient Greece history topic, the children will then study well-known myths such as Theseus and the Minotaur and Perseus and Medusa. They will analyse the key features of mythological stories before planning and writing their own original myths. After the half-term break, Year 4's learning focus will move to The Spiderwick Chronicles. The children will develop their descriptive writing through detailed character descriptions and newspaper articles. Finally, they will explore poetic techniques and forms through The Works by Pie Corbett.
	This term, the children will be revisiting place value and the value of digits, building a strong foundation for column addition and subtraction. They will apply these skills to solve problems with numbers up to four and five digits, using the inverse to check their answers. To deepen understanding, they will also tackle two-step contextual problems. In multiplication and division, the children will be recalling all times tables up to 12 × 12, identifying factors and their pairs, and learning how to multiply two numbers using column multiplication. They will also explore dividing two- and three-digit numbers by a single-digit divisor, applying their multiplication knowledge to support division. In statistics, the children will collect and organise data into bar graphs and column charts, enabling them to spot trends and patterns. To strengthen fluency, the children will continue practising their times tables through a range of activities, including games.
	In the first half of this term, Year 4 will be exploring living things and their habitats. The children will learn how scientists group living things, using classification keys to identify and name different plants and animals. They will also investigate habitats of different animals. Later in the term, we will move on to studying teeth and the digestive system. The children will begin by learning how the journey of food starts in our mouths, before discovering how the digestive system breaks food down into the nutrients and minerals our bodies need. To bring this learning to life, they will take part in a hands-on investigation of the digestive system using tights and a variety of materials—a fun and memorable way to see science in action!
	In History, the children will study Ancient Greece, learning about Alexander the Great, how he built his empire, and how empires spread culture, religion, and language. They will compare his achievements with the Romans, British, and Napoleon, and explore Athenian democracy alongside the war-focused values of Sparta. They will also discover how city-states united against the Persians, gain insight into daily life, gods, and myths, and reflect on the legacy of Ancient Greece in our lives today. In Geography, the children will revisit latitude, longitude, the Equator, and the poles, and practise using grid references and map scales to study changes in their local area. Later, they will focus on Mediterranean Europe, exploring trade, agriculture, and climate, and comparing Athens and Venice by looking at landmarks, transport, and population. They will also use maps to study countries, landscapes, and mountain ranges, while building their geographical vocabulary. In the arts, the children will explore African drumming and prepare a performance of traditional and contemporary Christmas music in Music, study cityscapes inspired by Paul Klee in Art, and design and create their own pizzas in DT, linked to science learning on healthy eating. In PE, outdoor lessons will develop basketball skills such as throwing, catching, and problem-solving, while indoor sessions will include dodgeball and expressive dance. In French, the children will describe portraits, clothes, and getting dressed. In PSHE, they will cover the Jigsaw topics Being Me in My World and Celebrating Differences, supported by circle time.

	In Computing, they will focus on online safety and understanding how the internet works. In RE, the children will explore how Judaism expresses forgiveness and reflect on the meaning of peace in Christianity. (**for further information please see the school website or click on the following: Harrow Agreed Syllabus).**

Home Learning:

All home learning work is set on Google classroom on a **Friday afternoon**. Other important information may be shared with your children on Google classroom by their class teacher. Please support your child's learning by encouraging them to complete the homework tasks set, within the allotted timeframe.

Reading Books and Reading Records: We recommend that the children read for at least 15 minutes each day and record the books they have read. This term's Reading Challenge is Bingo. The Children should write the title of each new book they read in a box, with the aim of completing a row of four. Books previously read, including those read during the summer holidays, cannot be included. At the end of the half term, completed Bingo sheets must be signed and returned to school for the children to receive a certificate. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging a love of reading.

Maths: The children will complete Times Tables Rock Stars to practise their times tables and improve their fluency.

Topic including Science: High frequency words will be shared on Google Classroom at the start of the term along with technical vocabulary for each topic. The children will be expected to use these correctly in their writing. A Home Learning Matrix will be shared on Google Classroom every half term linked to current topics and themes of learning. The children can choose one or all of the activity suggestions, which will help them to develop their research skills, as well as showcase their creativity.

Other Information:

PE: All children should have a PE kit (including a top in their house colour) in school at all times as PE lessons can vary. These will be taken home on a Friday to be washed, so please ensure that they are returned on a Monday. PE will take place twice a week. The P.E kit list is on the website and should be followed. Please ensure their PE kit is labelled.

Water: Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school. There is drinking water in every classroom for them to refill their bottles throughout the day.

Library: Your child will have the opportunity to visit the library during the course of the week and therefore will need to bring in their library books each week.

Trips: The children will visit Camley Street Natural Park as part of their geography learning. Further details will be shared soon.

Equipment: Please note that, due to limited classroom storage space, the children should not bring large backpacks to school. A school book bag is sufficient for the resources the children need to bring to and from school and can be stored easily in the classroom. The school provides all equipment needed for learning, so the children do not need to bring pencil cases or other stationery. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Best wishes,



Mr P. Berry-Woodward
Assistant Head Teacher – Middle Phase