

# Newcomen Primary School

## Year 4 Curriculum Overview

### Introduction

Welcome to Year 4! We place great importance on being able to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is primarily Literary based. As a school, we believe a text-rich environment ensures that all learning is relevant and stimulating across the whole curriculum. It really does allow the children to fully immerse themselves in what they are doing. In Year 4, we value and promote the ongoing development of your children who are our most precious assets. We will nurture and guide them to become increasingly responsible, respectful and resilient Newcomen citizens. We strive to ignite and harness a life-long passion for learning in every child and work along side you to give them the very best education. Please remember that we are here to help so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### English

At Newcomen Primary School, we promote a shared love and understanding of English whilst nurturing an appreciation of language and the use of high level vocabulary. During the Autumn Term, we will begin by studying a play script of the Pied Piper which provides opportunities for speaking, listening, reading, writing and drama. Following this, the children will become immersed in Michael Morpurgo's 'The Dancing Bear' and will write creatively using the book as a stimulus. Later in the year, we will study other genres of writing including poetry. In addition, your child will continue to develop their comprehension skills in discrete, focused reading lessons where they will study a wide range of high-quality reading material in order to enhance levels of comprehension. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling lessons will occur on a weekly basis to promote high standards of Literacy, articulacy and the correct use of standard English. Your child will be given spellings each week on a Friday morning and will be tested on them the following Friday. Head Teacher stickers are awarded to those achieving 100% and are highly valued by the children. Moreover, the most successful class will be visited by our beloved school mascot Leonardo for the entire day!

### Reading

At Newcomen, we believe that reading is a vital skill and enables your child to access a wealth of knowledge. Therefore, reading is a priority and lies at the heart of our curriculum. We recognise it is essential that your child not only reads fluently and with confidence, but also develops a wide and rich vocabulary. Comprehension skills are taught explicitly through shared and individual reading and this allows them to define and use new vocabulary. In school, emphasis is placed on reading aloud with clarity, fluency and appropriate expression. Children, who experience regular reading at home, benefit from improved confidence and reading skills. Therefore, your support with reading at home is valued and appreciated. Please allow time for your child to read their school reading book to you, discuss their understanding of the text and sign their reading record to allow them to be rewarded with the appropriate certificate. The government recommends daily reading with your child stating that "parents who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers. Parents have the power to transform the attitudes of their children towards reading." If a child is provided with the utmost support in reading, they will have a greater chance to access all aspects of the curriculum.

### Maths

At Newcomen Primary School, we believe that a high-quality mathematics education provides a foundation for understanding the world. The mathematics curriculum is split into four major strands – number, measurement, geometry and statistics. These will be visited each term and built upon as the year progresses. The principal focus of mathematics teaching in lower key stage 2 is a solid understanding of number and place value. This understanding will ensure that the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) are used with confidence. All children will need to know and practise their maths facts and their multiplication tables up to 12 times 12. It is crucial your child knows their multiplication and maths facts and spends time at home learning them. Emphasis within the school day is also placed on mental arithmetic. To develop this, at the start of the day, children complete a series of mental arithmetic questions to help them improve their understanding of mathematical concepts. Due to this fact, it is essential that your child arrives at school on time to complete their daily mental maths task.

## The Wider Curriculum

In **History**, the children will begin learning about changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. Following this, they will move onto The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. In **Geography** the children will have the opportunity to enhance their map and fieldwork skills. We will also be identifying the counties and regions of the United Kingdom.

In **Art and Design**, the children will explore cave art using mixed media. We are also thrilled that the children will be studying the famous artist William Morris and produce their very own Art Deco print! We follow on with still life observational drawing. During **Design Technology**, we will be designing and making models to represent Stone Age diorama, personalising and making seasonal smoothies and baking Roman bread.

In **Science**, the key focus is to enable the children to broaden their scientific view of the world around them. They will do this through exploring, talking about, testing and developing ideas about everyday phenomena and the relationships between living things and familiar environments. The topics the children will be learning about this year are Rocks, Animals – including Humans, Light, Plants and Forces and Magnets.

In **Religious Education (RE)**, the children will learn to understand the views taken by different religions about the environment. Following this, they will explore the origin of Hinduism and the traditions of Divali. Other topics include prayer, Lent and religious buildings.

**Computing** is an essential part of the curriculum as it prepares the children for the digital age in which we live. Over the course of the year, the children will be learning the skills of Coding, animation and effective searching. They will also be working on music and spreadsheets. Online safety permeates all aspects of the computing curriculum.

**Physical Education (PE)** will begin by focusing on health and fitness, stamina and agility. The children will go on to study modules of hockey, dance, gymnastic, athletics and orienteering throughout the year. Additionally, Year 4 pupils will take part in swimming lessons in the Spring Term.

In **French**, the children will develop their love of learning another language predominately through fun speaking and listening activities including songs, role play and the sharing of appropriate texts.

In **Music**, the children will listen to, review and evaluate various genres of music learning how to identify pulse, rhythm, dynamics and tempo. Moreover, they will learn to sing and to use their voices to create and compose music on their own and with others. Children will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and perform and improvise songs within a class setting.

Your children's well-being is of paramount importance. As such, our weekly **Relationship Education (RE)** sessions will be designed to support the children with this. We are very much looking forward to using the curriculum to offer our children guidance, support and reassurance. The key themes we will be exploring are: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me.

## Important Information

**Attendance** - 'Attend and Achieve' is a motto we are very proud of at school. If your child is not here, then they cannot learn. Please work with us to ensure that your child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

**PE** - Please ensure that your child has suitably labelled clothing which remains in school throughout the week. Class 9 has PE on a Friday and Class 10 on Wednesday. The only jewellery acceptable is a watch and stud earrings (which are removed for PE) or taped up. Asthmatic children need a named inhaler in school at all times.

**Spellings** – Year 4 have spelling tests on a Friday. Please ask your child for their spelling log and ensure that you review the spelling rule with your child when they are learning their spellings at home. Thank you so much for your support with this.

**Equipment** – Children are expected to bring their Maths Knowledge, Spelling Logs, English Knowledge Book, Reading Record and Reading Books every day.

Thank you and best wishes.