

Year 4 Newsletter



Spring 2



Dear Families,

In the Spring 2, we will continue with our theme of Compare, where we will continue to focus on different mountain regions, specifically the Himalayas and the Andes.

So far, we have looked at how our wonderful planet is constructed. The children were taken on a journey to the centre of the Earth where they learned about the four layers: inner core, outer core, mantle and crust.

Each of these remarkable sections were reconstructed very carefully using multi-coloured playdough. The children then cut into it to show the cross-section of each of the layers.



Following on from this the children have learned about plate tectonics and volcanoes, how they are formed and why they erupt. Next they will be learning about earthquakes and then the mountain ranges that occupy this planet, with a key focus on the Himalayas and The Andes, which will be used for comparison.

In English, we will be looking at a non-fiction style text on persuasion. Our text is about if we should have Playstations in school. During this piece of writing the children will develop the skills needed to debate a two-sided argument. Children will be taught how to embed their thoughts and beliefs into a constructive argument.

Curriculum

Theme: Compare

English

- *Persuasion (Should PlayStation be allowed in school?)
- * Class text: Running on the roof of the world

Maths

- *Fractions—including: addition and subtraction, finding fractions of amounts and comparing and ordering.
- *Time—learning how to read and convert between digital and analogue.
- Decimals— comparing and ordering, adding and subtracting.

In Art, we will continue to develop our sketching skills. We will be creating a still life drawing of objects that we put in our own composition.

In science, we will be learning about electricity and combining our knowledge into an exciting DT project!

In Computing, we are learning about data collection and will be using intuitive apps to collect data from around the school. We will compare how our data sets look and discuss why discrepancies may occur when collecting data.



School Value

This half term, our value focuses are 'courage' and 'love.'

We will investigate what 'courageous advocacy' means. We will discuss themes such as 'What I choose to stand up for,' 'What I advocate for' and 'What I care about.' We will be equipped with the skills, tools, confidence, and opportunity to speak up and take action on issues of justice. We will learn about human rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Swimming and Music

This half term, Year 4 will continue swimming on **Tuesday** afternoons'

Swimming is compulsory, as it is part of the PE curriculum and it is a vital life skill. The children will walk to the swimming pool after eating at lunchtime and will return by the end of the school day. Swimming lessons will be taught by a professional swim coach and lifeguards at the Leisure Centre. The Year 4 staff from school will be there too. Please remind your child not to wear earrings and to tie up long hair on Tuesdays. Children must not wear any jewellery, the swimming instructors will not allow children into the pool with earrings on.

" I really love to go swimming as you get to learn new skills with your friends." Jack

Our weekly music sessions with Mr Williams will continue throughout the Spring term. We will be learning how to play the recorder. Music sessions will be on Thursday morning.

There is no Forest School for Year 4, as we had our sessions in Autumn term.

Home Learning

Reading (inc reading diaries): Read at home five times per week. Please record in your Reading Record every time you read / share a book at home. Children who read 7 times will get a star and extra merits.

Sumdog: You need to spend 20 mins on Sumdog maths at home, each week.
www.sumdog.com/en/

Timestables: Please regularly practice timestables focusing on those you find most challenging.

Spellings: Spelling list will be sent home on a Friday, for a spelling check in school the following Friday. You can practise spelling words on Sumdog.

Suggested reading

When the mountains roared– Jess Butterworth

Suggested websites

Sumdog

BBC Bitesize– Volcanoes [https://](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/)

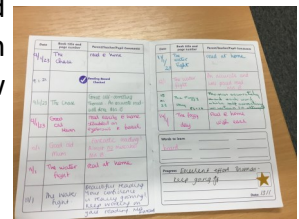
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/

Reading Diaries

Reading is a fundamental part of our school. Children must read every day, this supports learning across the curriculum. The reading diary should be completed every time the children read, starting a new page each week.

Star example:

Thomas, Turing



Important Dates

26th February: return to school

28th February: Books to life workshop

7th March: World Book Day. Come dressed as your favourite book character.

11th –15th March: British Science Week.

Wc 11th March: Parent consultation evenings

21st March: Year 4 café - online safety

25th-27th March– Bawdsey Residential

26th March –INSET (School closed)

28th March–End of Term, school closes at 1pm

A look at our learning so far...

Look at our school website to find out more about some of our learning

Year 4 class page with photos



School radio podcasts



Year 4 timetables



School Councils and groups

EAL Council has a very exciting project to undertake. As part of the Art Festival at the end of the year, we are singing a wonderful song called Dreams Roll Away and some of the original lyrics were in Swahili, Welsh and French. As a council, we decided that it would be far more representative of our EAL community at Drake to change these lyrics to Polish and Lithuanian. We will be learning this in singing assembly.

Behaviour

In school, we earn merits for demonstrating our learning powers, positive behaviours and outstanding effort and achievement.

We can also earn a class marble when we work well as a class to achieve something.

Secret students are picked randomly daily. The class staff will observe the secret student throughout the day. When the secret student has made good choices throughout the day. We share these on our school website.

Year 4 total merits this year: 7260

Year 4 total marbles this year: 100

To see the secret students for last half term, visit:

<https://www.drake.norfolk.sch.uk/year-4-secret-student/>

Attendance

It is a statutory requirement for children to be in school everyday. Therefore, the attendance expectation at Drake Primary School is 100%. We look forward to working together to ensure high attendance across the year.

Turing class attendance this year: 95.5%

Maathai class attendance this year: 96.68%

Pupil voice

What we know about the structure of the Earth: "The Earth is made up of four layers." "The inner and outer cores are made up of iron and nickel."

What we know about States of matter: "Different materials melt at different rates."

Pastoral Notice

As you know, attendance at school is important. Children report that coming back into school having missed some lessons and trying to catch up with the other children is challenging.

UK Health Security Agency NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

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Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qco.de/minifec>

The website is a fantastic window into learning at our school. Year 4 information including photos, curriculum and timetables can be found at: <https://www.drake.norfolk.sch.uk/2022-23-1/>

If you have any questions about the classroom or any other school related issue, please do not hesitate to email the school office; we will either email you or arrange a time to call you.

Mr Adair and Mrs Farraway

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