

	YEAR 4 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2025/26					
	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
English	Animals in Literature: In this emotionally rich unit, pupils will study Michael Morpurgo's The Butterfly Lion, a poignant tale of friendship and loyalty. Through this text, they will develop higher-order reading skills such as empathy and inference, deepening their understanding of character and theme. Pupils will respond through a variety of written tasks—both formal and informal—and express their interpretations through creative, kinaesthetic activities that bring the story's animal characters to life.	Poetry: In this imaginative unit, pupils will explore the art of visual poetry—discovering how powerful imagery can inspire and shape verse. They will be encouraged to experiment with poetic techniques to craft their own original poems. Each child will select and learn a poem of personal significance, culminating in a confident in-class performance that celebrates voice and interpretation. This unit nurtures creativity and a deeper appreciation for the beauty and impact of poetic language.	In this enriching unit, pupils will study Philip Pullman's The Firework-Maker's Daughter, using VIPERS strategies to deepen their understanding of character, plot, and language. The text will serve as a springboard for developing vocabulary and exploring a range of written forms, including diaries, letters, newspaper reports, and short stories. This unit fosters enhances comprehension, and confidence, helping pupils become thoughtful readers and expressive writers.	In this imaginative unit, pupils will enhance their creative writing skills through the use of short films from The Literacy Shed, focusing on rich sensory description to bring their ideas vividly to life. They will build on the planning techniques developed in Year 3, extending their ability to structure and craft compelling stories and poetry. Short films have the power to ignite imagination and emotion, providing vivid visual prompts that inspire rich, sensory-driven writing and creative storytelling.	This powerful unit centres around Berlie Doherty's Street Child, a gripping historical novel based on the true story of Jim Jarvis—a boy whose experiences helped inspire Dr Barnardo's mission to support destitute children. Pupils will deepen their understanding of the Victorian era, exploring themes such as poverty, workhouses, and social reform. Pupils will respond through a range of writing tasks including diary entries, letters, newspaper reports, and biographical accounts—strengthening both creative and formal writing skills.	Merlin's Magic In this enchanting unit, pupils will journey into the mythical world of Merlin—King Arthur's trusted advisor and secret protector. The unit draws inspiration from Cornwall's legendary landscape, particularly Tintagel Castle and Merlin's Cave—places steeped in Arthurian folklore. These iconic sites provide a powerful local link, helping pupils connect literature with the heritage and mystery of their own surroundings.
Maths	Our mathematics curriculum is designed to build on prior learning while encouraging each student to develop confidence and fluency in key mathematical skills. Students will progress through the topics at a pace suited to their individual attainment. While all students will cover the core content, some may move beyond these areas into more advanced concepts as the year progresses. Students will develop a wide range of mathematical skills, beginning with understanding larger numbers, place value, and Roman numerals, exploring negative numbers, sequences, and problem-solving with increasingly complex numbers. They will learn to read, write, and convert time across analogue, digital, 12- and 24-hour formats, including calculations involving hours, minutes, seconds, days, weeks, months, and years. Students will strengthen their fluency in times tables, multiplication and division, formal written methods for addition and subtraction, and multi-step problem solving in real-life contexts. They will explore rounding, estimation, scaling, correspondence, and the use of inverse operations to check calculations. In geometry, learners will read and plot coordinates, create and identify polygons, describe translations, and investigate angles, symmetry, and the properties of triangles and quadrilaterals. Fraction and decimal work will include understanding equivalents, addition and subtraction, finding fractions of amounts, and converting between fractions and decimals. Data handling will involve collecting, presenting, and interpreting information using pictograms, bar charts, pie charts, Carroll and Venn diagrams, and calculating averages such as the mode. Measurement will be developed through calculating perimeter and area of regular and irregular shapes, converting units of length, mass, volume, and time, and solving practical problems involving money and measures. Throughout the year, students will practice mental arithmetic strategies, apply arithmetic laws (commutative, associative, distributive), and use known facts and estimation to solve problems efficiently.					
Science	Living things and habitats Sound		Electricity Water and air		Movement and digestion Food chains and energy	
Humanities	How does the earth shake, rattle and roll? Hinduism - What do they believe God is like? Brahman and Hindu deities. What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?		How did the UK change with the Tudors? Christianity - Different denominations within Christianity. What kind of world did Jesus want? Good Samaritan.		Do we like to be beside the seaside? What do we know about the Anglo-Saxons?	
Spanish	Pupils will revise how to meet and greet people in Spanish, how to ask and say their name and how they are feeling, as well as where they live and their nationality. In the second half of term pupils will learn how to talk about what pets they have. There will be a cultural focus on how Christmas is celebrated in Spain, and typical Spanish traditions.		Topics this term will include learning the names of pets, asking others if they have a pet and creating longer phrases using the conjunctions y or pero . We will revisit key Spanish phonics, as well as cultural focuses on "Los Reyes Magos" (The Three Kings) on 6th January, and Easter traditions in Spain.		Pupils will learn about typical Spanish food and how to order food and drink in a cafe. We will have a focus on speaking and listening skills in this unit, and build up to a role play scenario. This term's cultural focus will look at the festival of "La Tomatina".	
Art	Pupils experimentwith media and approaches throughout the year. Introduced to a mixture of artists and cultures, including Cornish artists/ceramicists. This term: Colour theory; drawing and painting to music; experimenting with mixed media, mark-making in 2D & 3D (ceramics).		Relief printing - pattern making and cultural context; design skills; printing skills; colour mixing; organisation; creativity; growing independence. Clay - relief tiles with coloured slips and sgraffito. Drawing complex shapes and design skills. cultural context.		Approaches to landscape.. Drawing and painting outside, group work, approaches to recording the environment. Poster paint and mixed media. Colour mixing. Narrative in art - A mix of 2D and 3D activities recording outside, including a possibility of simple photography.	
DT	The children will generate their own ideas using experiences and existing products. They will learn to make models/prototypes using card. These models are then used as templates for their final projects. They will know that materials have functional and aesthetic qualities; and that systems have an input, process and output. They will begin to use technical vocabulary.		Development of drawing skills. The children will learn to order the main stages of making from the design process. They will gain further knowledge of selecting suitable tools, equipment, materials and components and they will be able to explain their choices		Children will generate realistic ideas based on user needs. They will use a range of drawing skills, discussion, prototypes, pattern pieces and computer-aided design. They will learn to solder electronic components and gain knowledge of circuit design; become more aware of electronics in our world and begin to think of the design that has gone into everyday devices/products. The pupils will incorporate a simple circuit into one of their projects. They will be introduced to metals.	
Music	Musicianship and developing music literacy. Year 4 Instrumental Scheme. Beginners ukulele, violin and guitar Listening to and appreciating diverse musical styles. Inspirational performances.		To learn about Grieg's Hall of the Mountain King and to compose their own piece of music to accompany a clip from How to Train your Dragon using Grieg as a stimulus. Musicianship and devolping music literacy. Year 4 Instrumental Scheme Listening to and appreciating diverse musical styles. Inspirational performances.		Using Art as a stimulus to composition. Musicianship and developing music literacy. Year 4 Instrumental Scheme. Listening to and appreciating diverse musical styles. Inspirational performances.	
Drama	Activities designed to explore use of the body, use of the voice, working as part of a team, awareness of audience.		Activities designed to explore performance skills (use of space, learning lines and cues, developing roles through rehearsal).		Activities designed to explore performance skills (use of props, concentration, self-organisation, teamwork) and drama activities to improve confidence and expression.	
Computing	Computing systems and networks: Working collaboratively in a responsible and considerate way as well as looking at a range of collaborative tools		Creating media: Developing their research, word processing, and collaborative working skills whilst learning how web pages and web sites are created.		Programming: Developing the four areas of computational thinking through a range of plugged and unplugged activities.	
	Programming 1: Learning the basics of programming in Scratch, children will create a simple script, use decomposition and understand what variables are.		HTML: Editing the HTML of a web page to change the layout of a website and the text and images.		Data handling: Researching and storing data using spreadsheets, designing a weather station which gathers and records data and learning how weather forecasts are made.	
PE	Swimming, Gymnastics		Swimming, Racket Sports		Swimming, Athletics	
	Swimming: relearn some basic skills and building on those with progressive practices in each of the four strokes.		Swimming: continue with a high standard of basic good practices such as push and glides with streamling every time the children start.		Swimming: with increased endurance and skills the children will follow a simple program as well as practice drills and whole stroke work. Water safety skills and knowledge will be revised as many increase their use of outdoor water activities.	
Games	Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Football		Hockey, Netball, Football		Cricket	
PSHE	Being Me in My World - 'Who am I and how do I fit? Celebrating Difference - Respect for similarity and difference. Anti-bullying and being unique.		Dreams and Goals - aspirations, how to achieve goals and understanding the emotions that go with this. Changing Me - coping positively with change.		Relationships - Building positive, healthy relationships. Healthy Me - Being and keeping safe and healthy.	