

Half Term Curriculum Overview

Year 4 Autumn 1 – 2026-27



English

Our focus narrative text this half-term is 'The Scarab's Secret', set in Ancient Egypt. Children will explore how to develop settings through descriptive detail. In retelling this narrative but changing the resolution, children will add detail to the plot by describing characters' relationships with one another, as well as their driving emotions and motives. In terms of punctuation and grammar, children will focus on incorporating expanded noun phrases with modifying adjectives and composing sentences with more than one clause. Children will learn about the features of play script. They will create their own play script based on the book 'I Was There – Tutankhamun's Tomb' – a vivid first-hand account of a child's experience of this ancient tomb. Children will explore how to use punctuation effectively and how to include the information they acquired from the text to make their play scripts an enticing read.

Computing

In this unit, children will collaborate to create a 'mini Wikipedia'. This will involve using search technologies effectively and using the internet to create content and present information. Children will continue to learn about online safety.

Spanish

Children will be introduced to Spanish culture and will focus on colours and numbers.

Topic: The Ancient Egyptians

History

Children will discover the social structure of ancient Egypt, dive into the powerful role of the pharaoh, and uncover the fascinating religious beliefs of the time.



Science

Children will explore particle behaviour in solids, liquids, and gases to compare, group and describe materials by state. They will also learn to make systematic observations and report findings from scientific inquiries.

Art

Children will create a portrait of an ancient Egyptian. They will make a collage to create an ancient Egyptian necklace or/and a head dress. They will learn how to create elaborate patterns using a range of recycled materials.

D&T

Investigate the science of shadufs, then design, construct, and evaluate a working model.

RE

Ontology (reality) – children will be learning about what different religions teach about what is real and what is not.

PSHE

Mental wellbeing and relationships

Pupils will explore relationship types—family and friends—and recognize the qualities of healthy friendships. They will learn how communication, inclusion, and support help manage difficulties, loneliness, change, loss, and grief.

Mathematics

Place Value

In Maths, children will begin by extending their place value knowledge to 4-digit numbers. Key skills will include rounding numbers to the nearest hundred and thousand and using their understanding of the value of each digit to compare and order numbers. Children will apply this understanding to a range of place value reasoning problems. As part of this unit, children will also develop their fluidity in counting in steps of 25 and 1,000.

Addition and Subtraction

- Add and subtract numbers with up to 4 digits using formal written methods.
- Estimate and use inverse operations to check answers to a calculation.
- Solve addition and subtraction two-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why.

P.E.

- In our gymnastics unit, children will learn how to simulate movement of cats using their whole bodies. They will also choreograph a sequence of synchronised movements.
- In our Games unit, children will be learning rugby skills.
- PE days: Thursday and Friday.

Homework

- **Topic homework:** Due in at the end of the half term
- **Spellings:** 10 words to learn weekly for Monday
- **Reading:** 15 minutes a day and signed by adult weekly
- **Mathematics:** Weekly maths homework on Atom Learning. Multiplication facts to be practiced on TTRS and fortnightly Maths activity (Scrap book)

Music

Composition Notation

To know that simple pictures can be used to represent the structure (organisation) of music. To understand that a slow tempo and a minor key (pitch) can be used to make music sound sad. To understand that in written staff notation, notes can go on or between lines, and that the lines show the pitch of the note.