



September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year! We hope you had a restful summer break and your children are ready for their return to Trent. Our priority for the Autumn Term is to ensure Year 4 are happy and feel settled after the summer and are ready to start their learning for the year.

We are looking forward to working with you and your children, and we know that we will have a brilliant year together. At Trent, we recognise that your child's success is often attributed to tremendous commitment from the whole family team, so thank you in advance for your support. This letter is for your information, outlining the learning taking place in Year 4 this term.

Throughout the Autumn Term, we will be covering the following:

Subject	Learning taking place at school	Links to previous learning to use as discussion points at home	Additional ideas to support your child at home
English	Throughout the term, we will be using high quality texts to inspire the children in developing their writing skills. We will be linking a number of books with our first project, <i>Ruthless Romans</i> . These texts include a collection of Roman Myths and our key text entitled <i>I was there Boudicca's Army</i> by Hilary McKay. We will cover a range of different writing genres including: historical narratives,	The children have previously covered a range of writing styles at Trent. Therefore, they will be able to build on their narrative styles	Discuss the current topic with your child, and ask them what they have been learning in English. We would encourage children to use dictionaries and thesauruses at home to expand and understand the vocabulary they are using. One of the most important things for children to do is ensure they are regularly reading. Please support your child in reading by signing their reading journals after they have read for 20 minutes.

	<p>play scripts, invitations and menus. We will also be starting the year with a focus on the text <i>Iron Man</i> by <i>Ted Hughes</i>. This will link to our English and Guided Reading lessons.</p> <p>After half term, we will continue to use high quality texts, to continue to inspire the children. As well as using non-fiction texts to learn more about modern day America, we will also be learning from a range of Native American Myths. Through these texts, the children will be able to develop their understanding of Native American culture and how they look after the planet. These texts will support the children during their project <i>Road Trip USA</i> and help them to embed their project knowledge with their writing. We will cover a range of different writing styles including: Postcards, E-mails, Diaries, Biographies, Myths and Legends and Poetry.</p> <p>During the Autumn term, we will be developing Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, which will build and embed the areas learnt in Year 3 and move them forward into Year 4. We will cover a range of spellings which we are trialing for this year. This looks at learning how to spell using a range of different spelling strategies including identifying suffixes. The scheme also revisits previous learned spelling patterns from earlier years. This means we will not be sending home spellings to learn as homework, instead they will have a spelling activity. The children will also learn key grammar terminology including:</p>	<p>to create historical narratives They have also experienced writing diary entries and poetry, which will support them this year in their writing.</p> <p>Much of the punctuation that the children have learnt already will be relevant to Year 4. We will be building on their understanding of punctuation and looking to include a range of effective punctuation within their writing. Additionally, much of the terminology used in Year 4 is relevant to their</p>	<p>You may wish to explore different areas of Literacy through this link: https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f</p>
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	word classes (nouns, adverbs, adjectives and prepositions); noun phrases; conjunctions (subordinating and coordinating); and fronted adverbials.	prior learning including word classes and fronted adverbials.	
Maths	<p>Similar to previous years, we will be continuing with the White Rose Maths scheme.</p> <p>We will start the year looking at Place Value before moving on to using the four operations. We will have a strong focus on mental arithmetic and reviewing prior learning at the start of each lesson to refresh the children's memory. Arithmetic will be practiced regularly and children will be given time to refine and develop their calculation strategies in order to become secure and confident in working out sums using all the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division).</p> <p>A key area of Maths that we will be focusing on this year will be times tables as by the end of Year 4 children should be confident with their times tables up to 12 x 12. This year the children will take part in the Government's Multiplication Check.</p>	<p>Children have covered place value up to three decimal places in previous years. We will be building on this to get to four digit numbers.</p> <p>The children have previously covered counting forwards and backwards in intervals and comparing numbers, which will be consolidated and developed over the term.</p> <p>Children have</p>	<p>Maths will be set regularly as part of the children's home learning. This will reflect what has been taught in school, the children will benefit from discussing areas in Maths that are included at home. We would also encourage regularly checking both digital and analogue times with your child as this is an area that children often find challenging. The more exposure they get to telling the time will benefit them hugely.</p> <p>We would encourage the children to regularly practice their multiplication tables in order to support their recall. There are a number of great songs on Youtube and BBC Supermovers which can be used to help teach the children their times tables.</p> <p>Please ensure your child has all the necessary mathematical equipment in their pencil cases (pencil, sharpener and ruler).</p> <p>There are some fantastic Maths activities on the following links that you might wish to use to re-enforce any learning: https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/ordering-and-sequencing-numbers https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zpdwxnb</p> <p>Here is a link to a Multiplication Check which is similar to the one they will sit later in the year:</p>

		covered the four operations at Trent, including word problems.	https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check Please note that the time tables which are taught in Year 4 are the 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables. Therefore, all other tables (2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables) should have been learnt in earlier year groups.
Science	<p>Over the course of the first half term, we will be exploring Sound. The children will be able to describe how sound is made and ways in which sound can be modified. They will carry out a range of activities in order to develop a range of working scientifically targets.</p> <p>After the half term, we will be learning about Electricity. The children will learn to construct circuits and describe and explain the role of various components in a circuit. They will learn about conductors and insulators and their role in circuits.</p>	<p>The children have been developing their understanding of working scientifically throughout their time at Trent.</p> <p>In Year 2, the children started learning about sound during their Summer project.</p>	<p>For additional reading for children about sound: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zgffr82</p> <p>For additional reading for children about electricity: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z2882hv</p>
Religious Education	<p>This term we will be looking at Christianity. During the first half term we will be exploring the big question <i>How did belief in God effect the actions of people from the Old Testament?</i>.</p> <p>After half term, we will be continuing with Christianity where we will be exploring the next two big questions, <i>What are the Beatitudes and what do they mean to Christians?</i> and <i>What do Christians mean peace at Christmas?</i></p>	<p>Children will have a good prior understanding of Christianity from studying Christianity in previous years.</p>	<p>Discuss with your child what they have been learning in RE and encourage them to read stories from the Old Testament.</p> <p>More information can also be found here: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztkxpv4</p>

<p>Relationships and Health Education (RHE)</p>	<p>During the first part of the Autumn Term, we will focus on the unit 'Health and Wellbeing' with Mental Health.</p> <p>After the Autumn Half Term, we will be continuing the unit of 'Relationships – Friendships/inclusions' and starting the units called 'Living in the wider world – Media and Me' and 'Living in the Wider World – Aspirations'.</p> <p>Through RHE sessions, children will recognise their individuality and personal qualities, strengths and achievements, and how these contribute to a sense of self-worth and mental health and well-being.</p>	<p>At Trent, we encourage children to explore friendships and the various roles we play to build harmonious relationships. The children will be able to build on their own personal experiences in order to develop them later.</p>	<p>Encourage your children to discuss their relationships at home and at school and what the strengths are within them. We would also encourage discussions with your children about what their goals are and how they can successfully achieve these goals.</p>
<p>Project (history, geography, art and design, computing, design and technology)</p>	<p>Our Creative Curriculum Project for the first half term will be based around the Romans and their legacy in Britain. The children will be looking to answer the big question <i>How did the arrivals of the Romans change Britain?</i> The first project of the year is entitled <i>Ruthless Romans</i> which we will link to a variety of subjects.</p> <p>As part of History we will be learning about the Romans and how they impacted Britain. The children will learn about the different roles people played in Roman Britain including the roles of men and women. The children will learn about Gladiators, Soldiers and the similarities and differences between the Britons and the Romans.</p>	<p>The children will be able to build on their prior learning of life in Britain from the Stone Age in Year 3. This will help them to build on their chronology of British History.</p>	<p>For more information about the Romans have a look at this link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwmpfg8</p> <p>For more information about Native Americans and the USA look at these links: https://www.ducksters.com/geography/usgeography.php https://www.historyforkids.net/native-americans.html</p>

	<p>As part of Geography, the children will compare England to Italy and look at the physical geography of both countries. The children will also be able to locate a number of Roman cities and towns, which are located in England.</p> <p>During this project, we will learn more about Roman artefacts such as mosaics which will inspire our own artwork.</p> <p>In Computing, we will be learning about how we can use Multimedia to Create Media, edit audio and present information. We will also be learning about Computing Systems and networks.</p> <p>As part of Design and Technology we will learn about the food eaten by the Romans and the Celts. The children will be able to compare the types of food and discuss hygiene associated with food preparation. The children will also create their own Roman inspired shields.</p> <p>Our Project for the second half term is <i>Road Trip USA</i>, which will enable us to explore Native American history and areas of the USA.</p> <p>As part of history we will explore key events in Native American History which led to modern day America. We will also learn about some key historical figures of America.</p> <p>Throughout this term, the children will be developing their map skills and their</p>		
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	<p>understanding of human and physical geography. The children will learn about climate, megacities and tourism.</p> <p>As part of Art, we will be looking the Native Americans and learning more about their art work.</p> <p>As part of our Computing curriculum, the children will learn about keeping safe online. The children will explore emailing and how to protect their personal information both online and in real life. They will also build on their understanding of Scratch to animate a poem.</p> <p>As part of Design and Technology, the children will learn how to weave their own Native American inspired mini-rugs and their own Native American inspired totem poles.</p>		
Physical Exercise	<p>Children will have two weekly PE sessions taught by Non Stop Action. One session will focus on floor gymnastics and the other will be netball.</p> <p>During this half term we will also be completing a Swimming unit.</p>	<p>PE will build on their prior experience of PE at Trent.</p>	<p>Please support your child in remembering the days that they have PE and need to wear their PE kits to school.</p>
Music	<p>Year 4 will have weekly music lessons taught by Mrs Ordon. Music activities will include a unit on Band where the children will be develop playing by ear and notation skills to perform a number of pieces as a class band using tuned percussion.</p>	<p>Mrs Ordon aims to build on the pupil's prior experience of rhythm and music.</p>	<p>When listening to music ask children if they can describe what they can hear and some of the instruments involved.</p>

	After half term, Year 4 will be developing their keyboard skills by developing their technique on the keyboard. Pupils will learn to read basic musical notation (notes within the stave in the treble clef and basic note lengths) and be able to perform from notation.		
French	The children will receive a specialist French lesson each week. Madame Keneally will be starting a new French scheme of work. The children will be revising colours, learning parts of the body, looking at adjectives, learning that all nouns have a gender, zoo animals, learning 'etre', Christmas etc. They will also be singing lots of songs and rhymes.		You can support your child by discussing lessons or topics, and encouraging additional personal research or practice.

PE

Year 4 will have PE on Tuesdays and Fridays. Children need to wear full Trent PE kit to school on these days. As we aim for lessons to be outdoors as often as possible, we recommend that children wear their outdoor PE kit (green jogging bottoms, Trent PE top, green jumper). We ask that your child wears either black or white trainers. We recommend providing your child with a spare pair of plimsolls for them to keep in school in case they need to change their shoes during the school day due to the weather. Children are not allowed to wear jewelry during PE lessons (excluding a small stud in each ear). Children are not permitted to wear any jewelry (including earrings) during swimming lessons.

Homework

We will be continuing to use Google Classrooms for home learning. Homework will be set on Google Classroom on Fridays and will usually consist of:

*A piece of Maths

*A piece of English

*A reading activity

*A spelling activity

* A piece of science or project learning

Homework is due in by Wednesday. Please encourage your child to get into the routine of 'handing in' their homework on time (by ensuring they click the 'hand in' button. If your child needs any help regarding their homework, they must come and see us before the Wednesday deadline so we can support them.

Reading

Your child will continue to benefit from group and whole class guided reading at school. However, the expectations for speed and accuracy in reading in Year 4 increase from Year 3. Please make sure your child reads every night for 20 minutes. Currently, your child has a reading journal, which should be signed every day by an adult at home. If they don't read two days in a row they will need to stay in and read for 5 minutes during their break time.

Equipment

Thank you to all who have purchased the school pencil case containing the equipment your child will need for this year. The children have already shown responsibility in looking after their own equipment, however if items need replacing, we would be grateful if you could support us in this. The items your child will need are: a clear pencil case, a pencil, a blue non-erasable writing pen (no biros please), a ruler, a sharpener, a glue stick, a purple pen and a whiteboard pen.

Please check with your child on a regular basis if they need any new items. We recommend that your child always has two pens and two pencils in their pencil case.

In Year 4 we do a lot of artwork which involves paints. The paints that are used in school can sometimes stain uniforms. Please could you provide your child with an art apron or oversized shirt for art activities in order to protect their uniforms. We ask that the apron or shirt is named and kept in a plastic carrier bag on their pegs in class.

Please provide your child with a water bottle every day and a healthy fruit snack to eat during morning break time.

Behaviour Policy

The Behaviour Policy has been clearly explained to all the children across the school. They understand the standard of behaviour expected of them and are responding positively. At Trent, we encourage and recognise positive behaviour by rewarding children who do well in a variety of ways.

Messages

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept physical letters or messages at the start or end of the day. However, if you still have a message you need to get to us, please pass it on through the Office.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 2nd September - Inset Day

Thursday 3rd September - Start of the Autumn Term

13th – 24th September - Swimming lessons everyday

Wednesday 29th September – Roman Day

Monday 25th October – Sunday 31st October – Half Term

We look forward to working with you during the terms ahead and we know it will be a brilliant year.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Miss Holmes, Mrs Balducci and Miss Kirkham