



January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school. We hope you had a wonderful break away from school and are excited to start our new projects. Thank you so much for your help so far and contributions to your children’s learning. At Trent, we recognise that your child’s success is often attributed to tremendous commitment from the whole family team, so thank you for your continued support. This letter is for your information, outlining the learning taking place in Year 4 this term.

Throughout the Spring 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	We are continuing to use high quality texts to feed into our Guided Reading and texts for our English lessons as well. We will be reading <i>Ice Palace</i> by Robert Swindells to use in our English writing. Writing genres will include short bursts of character and setting descriptions, narratives, letter writing, poetry and calligrams. In Guided Reading we will be reading <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i> by Onjali Q. Raúf.	The children have previously covered a range of writing styles at Trent. Therefore, they will be able to build on their narrative styles to create informal letters and poems. Much of the punctuation that the children have learnt already will be relevant to Year 4. We will be building on this by discussing how to use punctuation effectively in our writing.	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. Our new reading programme has been outlined in a recent letter. Your support in hearing your child read and making sure their

	<p>After half term, we will be using texts such as <i>Leon and the Place Between</i> by <i>Angela McAllister</i> and a range of poems. Through these texts, the children will be able to develop their understanding of rivers and some influential people who have helped to protect the planet. We will cover a range of different writing styles including: poetry and dilemma stories. In Guided Reading, we will be reading <i>The Lost Happy Endings</i> by <i>Carol Ann Duffy</i> and <i>Song of the Dolphin Boy</i> by <i>Elizabeth Laird</i>.</p> <p>We will continue to look at strategies and skills required when learning how to spell and how to apply these in our writing.</p> <p>We will continue to build on the children's grammar terminology including: word classes (nouns, adverbs, adjectives and prepositions); expanded noun phrases; conjunctions (subordinating and coordinating); and fronted adverbials.</p>	<p>Reinforcement of previous grammar terms would also be helpful, including verb tenses, fronted adverbials and subordinating conjunctions.</p>	<p>book and journal are in school on their reading day is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>You may wish to explore different areas of Literacy through this link:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f</p>
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<p>Maths</p>	<p>We are continuing with weekly themes this half term. We will be covering fractions and decimals along with multiplication and division. We look at factor pairs, written method of multiplication and division. We will also be teaching angles and position and direction on a grid.</p> <p>Additionally, we will be focusing on our times tables throughout the term in preparation for the Year 4 multiplication check. The expectation is that by the end of Year 4 children should be confident with their times tables up to 12 x 12.</p>	<p>The children have learnt times tables in previous year groups and we have taught strategies to learn their 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables in this academic year as well as reviewed some of their prior times tables facts. This should help them when using short multiplication. In Year 3, the children would have learnt about multiplying in a formal written method. We will also build on our prior learning of area from Autumn term. Additionally, we will build on the children's prior learning of fractions and addition/subtraction.</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, whiteboard pen, 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:</p> <p>https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/ordering-andsequencing-numbers</p>
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Science	<p>For the first half term, we will be learning about Habitats and Living Things. The children will learn how living things can be grouped and will explore how to use classification keys. We will also be teaching the children about some of the environmental dangers that are posed to living things.</p> <p>After half term, we will be learning States of Matter. The children will learn to identify and classify the different states of matter.</p> <p>They will also learn about the properties of solids, liquids and gases. The children will</p>	<p>The children have been developing their understanding of working scientifically throughout their time at Trent.</p> <p>In Year 2 and Year 3 children learn about different animals. In particular Year 3's predator project taught the children about some of the features of living things. Previously, the children have learnt about materials and the properties that they have. The children</p>	<p>For additional reading for children about Habitats and Living things:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zn22pv4</p> <p>For additional reading about States of Matter, please follow the following link:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkkg87h</p>

	also learn to use data loggers to record changes in temperature over time. We will also teach the children about melting, freezing, evaporation and condensation.	will build on this understanding to learn about the States of Matter.	
Religious Education	<p><u>Spring 1: Hinduism</u></p> <p>Big Question: How do Hindus worship?</p> <p><u>Weekly Questions we will explore</u></p> <p>Why do Hindus have many images of God?</p> <p>Why is the Aum symbol important to Hindus?</p> <p>How do Hindus worship at home?</p> <p>How does a Hindu priest help Hindus worship at the mandir? (To support this, we will be visiting a mandir.)</p> <p>Why do Hindus go on pilgrimage?</p> <p>After half term, the children will learn about whether fame and the Christian faith go together as well as Holy Communion. Through this term, the children will learn about the significance of the body and blood of Christ and how Holy</p>	<p>Our study of Hinduism will build on children's understanding the major world religions and give them chances to both learn what Hindu's believe and also to reflect on their own faith and beliefs.</p> <p>Children will have a good prior understanding of Christianity from studying Christianity in previous years.</p>	<p>For additional information on Hinduism, please follow this link:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmpp92p</p> <p>Ask your child what they remember and understand about the communion liturgy we read.</p>

	Communion influences a Christian's day to day life.		
Personal, Social, Health and Economical (PSHE)	<p>Our PSHE will look at changing friendships, prejudice and discrimination, loneliness and when things go wrong – what we can do to solve them.</p> <p>After the half term, we will be learning about Health & wellbeing including medication education, alcohol laws and decision making.</p>	Please support your child by talking to them about what we have learned. So far, this includes loss and bereavement, keeping secrets and mental/physical health.	
History	As part of History this term, the children will learn about who the Anglo-Saxons were, how they lived and how we know this. They will also learn about the Sutton Hoo and will compare the previous areas of history they have learnt about this year.	In History, the children will be able to build on their understanding of the Romans and the Celts to understand where the Anglo Saxon's place in history.	For more information on the Anglo Saxons, please follow this link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm
Geography	Geography this term will involve learning about rivers and the features of rivers. The children will also learn about the Water Cycle and physical features of Britain.	In Geography, we have discussed physical features in England and Italy including rivers. We have spent time learning about texture in art in the Autumn term and will continue to build on this.	For more information on rivers and the water cycle, please follow this link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkkg87h/articles/z3wpp39 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/articles/z7w8pg8

DT	DT will initially focus on designing an Anglo-Saxon purse and will include sewing.	The children have had good experience designing this year and will be able to build on their prior learning this term.	Videos on different sewing techniques: Running stitch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui6cZF6GPgQ Back stitch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ_wVC84UmM
Art	Year 4 will be using Derek DeYoung's paintings of fish to inspire their own block-print painting.	Year 4 will be using prior experience of warm and cool tones to decide the colours for their painting.	Video similar to what we are creating: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BESZ8XUpM0Y
Computing	At the beginning of the term, Year 4 will be exploring our Big Question, 'How can we use a text-based language?' In the second half term, the children will be learning about Handling data and how we can use data loggers to record and analyse data.	Throughout Trent, children have had previous experience in Programming. We have collected data and used data loggers previously in Autumn term. The children will be able to build on their learning in order to collect different data and analyse it in new ways.	Discuss the current topic with your child, and ask them what they have been learning in Computing

<p>Physical Exercise</p>	<p>Children will have two weekly PE sessions taught by Mrs Kakorious.</p> <p>In PE this term, Year 4 will be doing Gymnastics for their indoor lessons. The focus will be:</p> <p>Can they perform a range of balances with control?</p> <p>The pupils will be developing their ability to feel a balance on a range of different body parts. They will be taught to use a range of patch and point balances. They will be encouraged to hold their balance for a minimum of 4 seconds to show control. In group work, they will link their new skills together to perform sequences to an audience.</p> <p>Their outdoor topic will be Netball. The pupils will be working on passing the ball and catching it with more control. They will start to show an understanding of footwork; landing</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>
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	<p>on one foot and then the other. They will learn how to dodge into a space and mark a player to prevent them from getting the ball. Finally they will learn how to shoot a ball into a net with some success.</p> <p>This year, Year 4 will be partaking in the Dance Festival.</p>		
Music	<p>Year 4 will have weekly music lessons taught by Mrs Ordon.</p> <p>Our topic in music will be 'Composition toolbox-moods and film music'. Pupils will create music using keyboards and untuned percussion to fit with a film clip. They will consider musical elements such as dynamics and tempo to create a successful piece.</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>

French	<p>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 learning about members of the family, vowels and pet vocabulary before half term.</p> <p>After half term, the children will be learning about Easter traditions, Dictionary skills, past tense and their likes and dislikes.</p>	Madame Keneally will build on the children's prior learning in French.	You can support your child by discussing lessons or topics, and encouraging additional personal research or practice.
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PE Year 4 will have PE on Monday and Wednesday. 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 muddy trainers/studs for them to use on the field.** Children are not allowed to wear jewellery during PE lessons (excluding a small stud in each ear). Children are not permitted to wear any jewellery (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 Atom learning
- *A piece of English Atom learning
- * A piece of science Atom learning or project learning (due in during the final week of the half term)

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.

Equipment

Please can you make sure that your child's pencil case is fully stocked. Missing handwriting pens, pencils and whiteboard pens are really hindering the learning of some of the children.

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.

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

Dates for your diary

Thursday 16th 9am – Curriculum Information Meeting

Tuesday 28th January – class trip to the Neasden Temple.

Friday 7th February: Anglo Saxon Day (sewing)

Tuesday 11th February – Safer Internet Day

17th – 21st February 2025: Half Term

Friday 14th February – Year 4 Class Assembly

Monday 24th February 9am-12noon – Cross Country Event Y4,5,6

Monday 3rd March – Y4 Boys Football 9-12noon

17th-21st March – Science Week

Parents Evening 19th and 22nd February

2nd April – Easter Church Service 9am

4th April – Early Dismissal

7th – 21st April– Easter Holidays

Back to school 22nd April

Cuffley Camp 30th-1st May (2nd Optional Rest Day)

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

Best wishes,

The Y4 Team