

Curriculum News Spring 2026



This term, Year 4 will be stepping back in time to explore life during the **Victorian era** (1837–1901), a fascinating period of great change, invention and contrast. We will discover what life was like for children and families during Queen Victoria’s reign and compare it with our own lives today.

Through this topic, children will learn about **daily life in Victorian Britain**, including homes, schools, jobs and leisure. We will explore how the Industrial Revolution changed towns and cities, and consider how these changes affected people in different ways. Pupils will think carefully about what life was like for rich and poor Victorians and develop an understanding of fairness, responsibility and resilience.

In **Humanities**, children will use a range of sources such as photographs, artefacts, diaries and newspaper reports to ask questions about the past and find out how we know about Victorian life. They will develop their skills in chronology, historical enquiry and explanation.

Our **Literacy** work will be closely linked to the topic through Victorian stories, diaries, letters and reports. Children will write in role, using rich vocabulary and descriptive language inspired by the era. Reading lessons will include fiction and non-fiction texts set in or about Victorian times. Our main class text will be *Oliver Twist*.

In **Science and Technology**, pupils will explore Victorian inventions and investigate how simple machines work. They will design and evaluate their own creations, inspired by inventors of the time. They will also be using BBC Microbits to code and explore digital technology.

Expressive arts will allow children to express their learning creatively, from observational drawing and design to digital projects and presentations.

By the end of the topic, children will have a strong understanding of the Victorian era and be able to explain how this important period helped shape the Britain we live in today.

Maths & Numeracy

This term in mathematics, Year 4 pupils will build on their existing skills and develop confidence across a range of key areas, with a strong focus on reasoning, problem-

solving and mathematical vocabulary. Children will learn to measure, compare and calculate mass using grams and kilograms. They will read scales accurately, estimate weights and solve real-life problems involving mass, including addition and subtraction. Pupils will develop their understanding of time by reading analogue and digital clocks, including 24-hour time. They will calculate durations, convert between units of time and solve problems involving timetables and elapsed time. Children will collect, present and interpret data using tables, bar charts and line graphs. They will answer questions using data, compare results and draw conclusions, explaining their reasoning clearly. Pupils will deepen their understanding of decimals, focusing on tenths and hundredths. They will learn how decimals relate to fractions, compare and order numbers with the same number of decimal places, and use this knowledge in practical contexts such as money and measurement. Children will explore the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, identifying angles, lines of symmetry and key features. They will use mathematical language to describe and compare shapes. Pupils will learn how to calculate perimeter by adding the lengths of sides and will be introduced to finding area by counting squares and using simple calculations. They will apply these skills to solve real-world problems and explain their methods.

Throughout the term, children will be encouraged to explain their thinking, make connections between different areas of mathematics and apply their skills confidently in a range of practical and problem-solving activities.

RVE

This year we will continue to teach RE using a scheme called Understanding Christianity. Understanding Christianity looks at eight core concepts at the heart of mainstream Christian belief. It sets out some knowledge 'building blocks', to clarify what pupils know and understand about these concepts. The children will learn about each concept and their impact on the lives of Christians in the UK and the world today, making connections with the world of the pupils and their wider understanding.

Health & Wellbeing

Our PE days with Mr Nurton will be on Thursday and Friday. It is very important that every pupil takes part in PE. PE kit should consist of black or navy jogging bottoms/shorts, a white t-shirt and suitable outdoor shoes. Children are not permitted to wear earrings at any time in school. Due to our changeable weather, pupils will need to ensure they have kit that can be used both indoors and outdoors.

How can you help?

Please continue to support your child with their weekly spellings. Spellings will be sent out on a Thursday via the weekly homework letter ready for a spelling test on the following Monday. We encourage all children to read at home as frequently as possible. These can be school reading books which the children can borrow or their own books from home. At this stage, as the children are becoming more confident

with their reading ability, discussions about the meaning of text and encouraging inference/prediction skills, will hugely benefit your child's higher level reading skills.

Practise multiplication tables with your children – rapid recall of times tables facts will help across various areas of their maths work. Any opportunity to tell the time would also be a benefit. Complete weekly maths homework with your children if they would like the opportunity to revise their learning for the week. Encourage pupils to use SumDog (our new Math online platform) as much as possible at home.

Homework books - Pupils will use these books to practise their weekly spellings/maths. Homework will be sent home on Thursday and pupils will have a week to complete this work, although spellings will be tested on Monday. Homework will consist of maths work and weekly spelling. Homework will be sent home via a ParentPay letter. Homework is also put on the school website weekly under the Year 4 class page.

Warm regards,

Mrs C Jenkins