

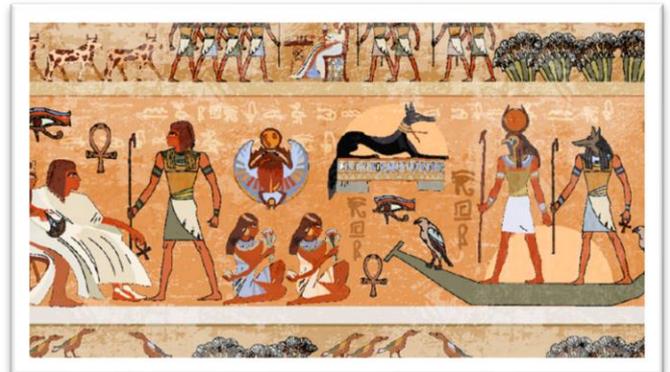
Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2025

Hedgehog Class - Year 4

'Ancient Civilisations'

This term, our young historians will climb into their own imaginary time machine and journey thousands of years back to explore three of the world's very first civilisations. They will wander through the bustling streets of Ancient Sumer, sail down the mighty Nile to uncover the secrets of Ancient Egypt and step inside the mysterious cities of the Indus Valley. Along the way, the children will discover how these pioneering peoples built extraordinary cities, developed new technologies and left behind fascinating clues to their success and decline. Through hands-on investigations, creative projects and lively discussions, they will experience the excitement of piecing together the past and see how these ancient worlds still shape the one we live in today.



Literacy

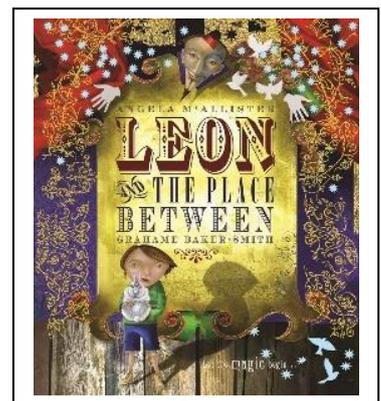
English in Year 4 – Autumn Term

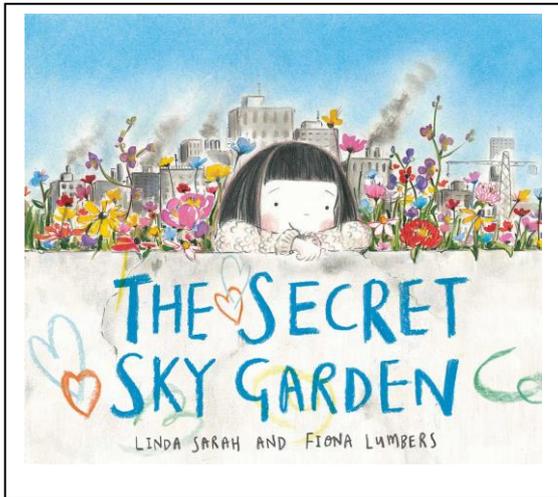
This term in English, Year 4 will be diving into two exciting units from *Ready Steady Write* that inspire creativity, imagination and a love of storytelling.

Leon and the Place Between

We will begin the term exploring *Leon and the Place Between* by Angela McAllister, a beautifully illustrated tale about magic and wonder. Children will be encouraged to step into Leon's shoes as he ventures into a mysterious world where anything is possible. Through this text, pupils will:

- Develop their descriptive writing skills, focusing on setting and atmosphere.
- Experiment with vocabulary to create vivid imagery.
- Write their own magical adventure stories, using Leon's journey as inspiration.





The Secret Sky Garden

Later in the term, we will turn to *The Secret Sky Garden* by Linda Sarah. This story highlights themes of friendship, community and the environment. As we read, children will:

- Explore how authors use language to express feelings and relationships.
- Practise persuasive and informative writing, linked to caring for the environment.
- Create their own imaginative responses, such as diary entries, letters, and poetry inspired by the garden.

Across both units, children will continue to strengthen their spelling, grammar and punctuation skills, while also developing confidence in reading aloud and sharing ideas. There will be many opportunities for drama, role-play and discussion, helping pupils to deepen their understanding of the texts and build strong speaking and listening skills.

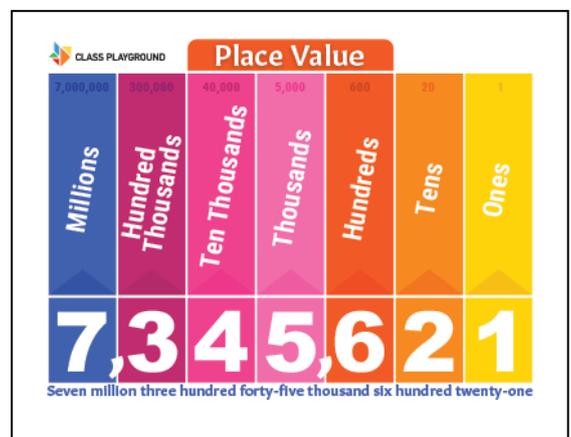
By the end of the term, we hope Year 4 children will not only have honed their writing and comprehension but also discovered the joy of exploring big ideas through stories.

Maths

In maths this term, Year 4 will be building on their previous knowledge and developing greater confidence with number, calculation and problem solving.

Place Value

We begin the term by deepening our understanding of place value in numbers up to 10,000. Children will learn to read, write and compare larger numbers, and practise rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. This will provide a strong foundation for the calculation work that follows.



Addition and Subtraction

Children will be developing efficient written methods for addition and subtraction, including column methods. They will also be solving problems using these skills, applying them to real-life contexts.

Multiplication and Division

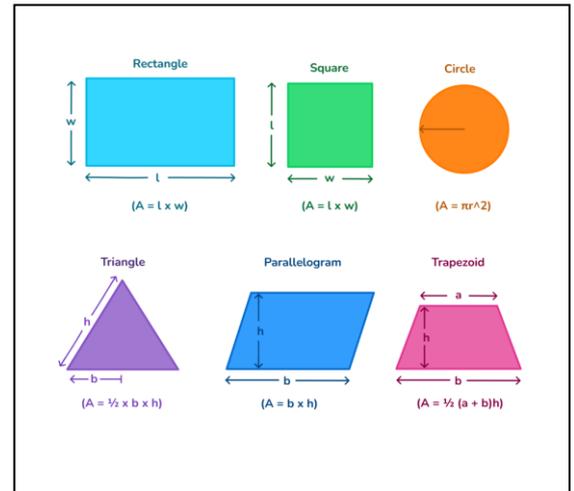
Later in the term, the focus will shift to multiplication and division. Year 4 is an important year for times tables, and pupils will be working hard to

recall multiplication facts up to 12×12 fluently. They will also explore factor pairs, multiples, and begin to use formal written methods for multiplication and division.

Measurement and Area

Alongside number work, children will investigate length, perimeter and area, developing their ability to calculate and reason about the size of 2D shapes.

Throughout the term, we will continue to emphasise problem solving, reasoning and explaining mathematical thinking. Regular practice of times tables at home will be particularly helpful in supporting your child's progress this year.

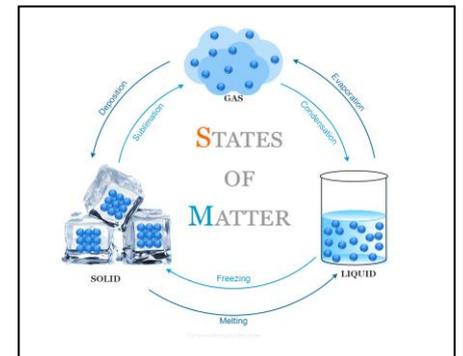


Science



Year 4 students will be diving into the world of living things in their “**Group and Classify Living Things**” unit. They will explore how to identify and sort plants and animals based on features, habitats, and behaviours. Hands-on activities like sorting and creating classification keys will help them think like real scientists while discovering the amazing diversity of life around them.

Next term, Year 4 students will be exploring the **states of matter**—solids, liquids, and gases. They will engage in hands-on experiments to see how materials change state through processes like melting, freezing, and evaporating. This exciting unit will help students understand the properties of different materials and how they can transform, laying the groundwork for deeper scientific learning.



Art

Autumn 1



This term in our art lessons, we will be exploring the fascinating world of sculpture through our topic of ancient civilisations. Children will learn about the art and design of cultures in Ancient Egypt, Ancient Sumer, and the Indus Valley. They will then use this knowledge as inspiration for making clay pots, using a coil technique and designing decorative jewellery. These hands-on activities will help develop their skills in shaping, moulding, and decorating clay.

Autumn 2

We will then move onto drawing and painting, focusing on portraits and landscapes. We will create portraits of pharaohs and Egyptian gods and focus on making shapes symmetrical, using bright colours and meaningful symbols. Children will experiment with mixing secondary and tertiary colours, using warm and cool colours for effect and experiment with tints, tones, and shades.



Computing

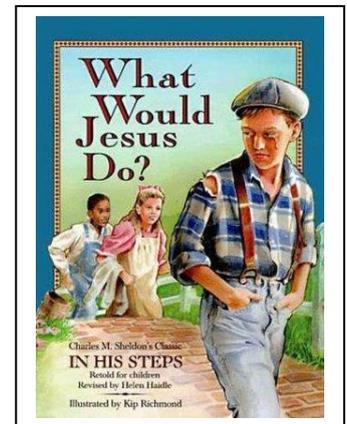
```
1 #!/bin/python3
2
3 import turtle
4 t = turtle.Turtle()
5 turtle.Screen().bgcolor("blue")
6 t.color("cyan")
7 for i in range(10):
8     for j in range(2):
9         t.forward(100)
10        t.right(60)
11    t.forward(100)
12    t.right(120)
13 t.right(36)
```

Turtle Programming

This term, Year 4 have been learning to program a screen turtle. Starting with simple commands to draw shapes, they quickly progressed to creating their own colourful patterns and designs. Along the way, they've developed their understanding of algorithms and sequences, while discovering how coding can also be a fun way to be creative!

RE

In RE this term, Year 4 will be exploring the Christian unit “*What kind of world did Jesus want?*” Through stories and teachings from the Gospels, children will reflect on the values that Jesus encouraged, such as kindness, forgiveness, fairness and love. They will consider how these ideas can influence the way people live today and think about ways they can help to make the world a fairer and more caring place.



PE

Children will need to ensure their PE kits are in school at the beginning of every week. In PE this term, Year 4 will be developing their skills through football and fitness lessons. In football, children will focus on teamwork, communication and key techniques such as passing, dribbling and shooting. Fitness sessions will help pupils build stamina, strength and coordination through a range of fun activities and challenges. Across both areas, there will be an emphasis on resilience, fair play and enjoying being active.



Music



This term in KS2, children will be learning the guitar. Starting with the basics of positioning and fretting notes, children will progress to learning full chord progressions and explore synthesising creative writing skills with their playing to create group compositions. Children will listen to live musical performances and analyse key elements: rhythm, melody and chord structure. The children will be taught music by Mr Pester.

French

This term, Year 4 will be diving into some exciting new topics in French. They will explore *travel* and learn about different *Francophone countries* around the world, discovering where French is spoken beyond France. Pupils will also practise talking about the *weather* and use the *days of the week* to plan activities and conversations.



Through interactive activities, songs, and games, the children will build their vocabulary, gain confidence in speaking, and develop a deeper appreciation of French language and culture.

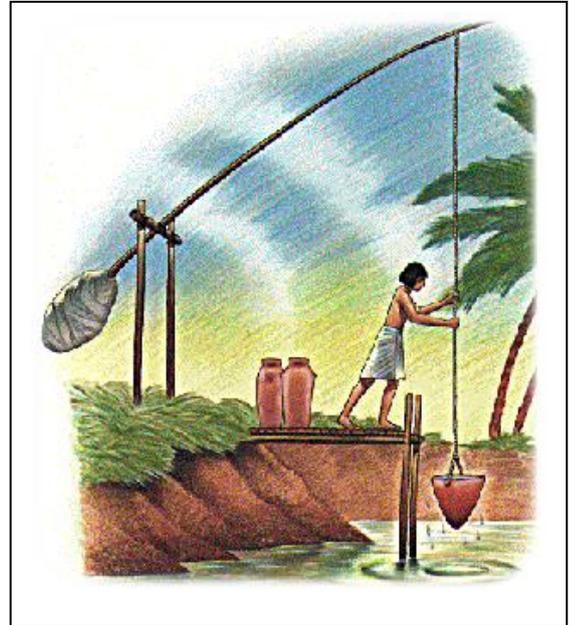
PSHE



The children will spend the first part of the Autumn Term on *Being Me in My World*. They will discuss how to become a class team, how to be a school citizen, rights, responsibilities and democracy, rewards and consequences and will create their own class learning charter. After half term, children will also study the importance of *Celebrating Difference*. They will look at understanding: how people can sometimes make incorrect judgements based on appearances; the effect of influences; bullying; problem solving; before concluding with a celebration of being themselves.

Design and Technology

This term, Year 4 will be exploring how ancient civilisations managed water by designing and building their own **mini water systems** inspired by the Sumerians, Indus Valley, and Ancient Egyptians. Pupils will research ancient irrigation, drainage, and shadufs, plan and construct working models, test how effectively they move or store water, and refine their designs, gaining hands-on experience of engineering, problem-solving, and the ingenuity of ancient societies.



Our topic big event

We're thrilled to share that we have booked an unforgettable virtual reality experience for the children. They will zoom back over 5,000 years to the time of the Pharaohs to explore one of the world's oldest and most fascinating cultures. Using state-of-the-art VR headsets, pupils will step inside pyramids and tombs, decipher hieroglyphics, discover ancient



inventions such as toothpaste, and see how skilled embalmers prepared mummies for the afterlife. They'll "meet" the animal-headed gods of Ancient Egypt, explore the Book of the Dead, and even find out whether their hearts are pure enough to enter Duat, the underworld!

Developed with experts and fully aligned to the History curriculum, this immersive experience allows children to look around in 360° at treasures and artefacts from this incredible period. It's a memorable way to visit Ancient Egypt without leaving the classroom, and a fantastic way to bring their learning to life.

How you can help at home...

- Listen to your child read daily and ask them questions about what they are reading to improve their comprehension.
- Engage with Doodle learning – focus on spelling and maths.
- Encourage curiosity. If your child is studying a topic like Ancient Egypt encourage them to explore related subjects through books or videos.
- Support your child in learning their times table facts. The children **will be taking the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June**, a government assessment that checks how quickly and accurately they can recall their times tables from 2× to 12×.

Thank you for your continued support
Miss Smith