Year 4: Autumn 2

Writing

In Writing, children will explore *The Matchbox Diary*, a story about a young girl discovering her great-grandfather's memories through a collection of matchboxes. They will develop their reading skills by making predictions, finding information and drawing inferences from the text. Children will write a range of texts, including dialogue, diary entries and biographies, while developing their vocabulary and use of descriptive language. They will practise using noun phrases, conjunctions, adverbs and pronouns to make their writing more effective, as well as punctuating speech with inverted commas. Finally, they will plan, write, edit and publish their own biography, organising events in chronological order.

Science

In Science, children will explore the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. They will learn how to group materials based on their state and investigate how heating and cooling can cause materials to change from one state to another. Children will measure or research the temperatures at which these changes happen. They will also explore the water cycle, learning about evaporation and condensation and how temperature affects how quickly water evaporates. Through practical activities and investigations, children will develop their understanding of how materials behave and change around us.

PSHE

In PSHE, children will explore their emotions and learn that feelings can change depending on different situations. Through the *myHappymind Places programme*, they will discover their Happy Place, Middle Place and Busy Place, developing strategies to manage their emotions and feel more in control. They will learn the importance of looking after their mental health, expressing their feelings and talking to trusted adults when they need support. Children will also create their own personalised *myHappymind Places map* to help them manage their emotions in and outside school.

Geography

This half term, children will become European Explorers as they discover the continent of Europe. They will learn where Europe is in the world, identify its countries and explore famous landmarks and natural features. Children will use their geographical knowledge to discover interesting places to visit and develop their understanding of what makes each place special. To finish the unit, children will create their own European travel guide or fact file to share everything they have learned.

Maths

In Maths, children will develop their confidence and accuracy when subtracting numbers, learning to use methods both with and without exchange. They will explore area, discovering how to measure and compare the space inside different shapes. Later in the half term, children will move on to multiplication and division, building their understanding of times tables and using a range of strategies to solve calculations. Throughout these topics, children will use practical equipment, pictorial representations and written methods to develop their understanding. They will also strengthen their reasoning skills by explaining their methods, justifying their answers and exploring different ways to solve problems.

In addition, all pupils will take part in weekly arithmetic sessions, focusing on developing their knowledge and recall of times tables. They will learn and practise strategies for specific times tables, helping them recognise multiplication patterns and make connections between times table facts and related division facts. Through regular practice and repetition, children will work towards achieving greater speed, accuracy and fluency when recalling key facts, building a secure foundation for more challenging calculations.

Music

In Music, children will develop their singing skills as they prepare songs for the school Christmas concert. They will practise using their voices with greater confidence, focusing on pitch, rhythm, breathing and clear words. Children will also explore a range of instruments, working together to prepare an instrumental performance. They will develop their ability to play in time, listen to others and perform as part of an ensemble.

PE

In PE this half term, Year 4 will finish their final few swimming lessons, refining their confidence, technique and water safety skills. The children will then be focussing on precision and controlled movements in dance, as well as team working through offensive and defensive skills in football.