

Year 4 Curriculum Letter - Autumn 1 (8 weeks) 2026

Our theme for Autumn 1 is:



Our main focuses are:

- Learning about the importance of the Mayan Civilisation and the cocoa bean.
- Learning what life was like for the Mayans.
- Comparing the Mayan civilisation with others that we have learnt about and modern times.
- Investigating how materials can change state and what the states of matter are.
- Learning the process of the Water Cycle.

Our theme will last for:

8 weeks

Personal, Health, Social and Community Education (No Outsiders in our School)

As a whole school, we will be following the No Outsiders in our School Scheme which involves looking at a range of stories that address diversity and equality. This half term, we will be reading 'Along Came a Different' by Tom McLaughlin.

British Values and Behaviour and Safety

During this topic, we will be looking at the 'Rule of Law' and creating our own fables to help us follow the school rules.

Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE)

We will be discussing healthy friendships and what to do if a relationship becomes unhealthy. This will include conflict resolution and working out who we can talk to if we have a concern.

P.E.

For P.E. this year, our Tuesday afternoons will be split into two sessions. The first will be fitness and movement. The second session will be our PE focus for this half term, which is learning the skills required to play Tag Rugby. Please bring PE kit that is suitable for indoors and outdoors at all times throughout the year.

Music

For our first Music topic this year, we will be looking at ABBA! We will be exploring composition, improvisation and building up to an end of half term performance.

English:

What would the world of children's literature be like without the fabulous Roald Dahl and his amazing books? We will be reading extracts from the story 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' (lucky us!) and doing some amazing writing around the story. We will also be watching extracts of both of the films; the new version is classed as a PG so please inform your child's class teacher should you have any concerns regarding this.

Children will have the opportunity to explore the weird and wonderful characters of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We will particularly be focusing on Charlie Bucket and his surroundings. Children will be using their creativity to write a character description of Charlie and Willy Wonka. Children will build this into a Narrative text that includes speech, punctuation and thinking about Charlie's feelings during the end of the story.

French:

In this unit, the children will learn how to present themselves, ensuring they use correct pronunciation and intonation. We will be looking at a wide range of familiar written words, phrases and short sentences that we can say aloud to another person.

Science

There's nothing quite like having some yummy chocolate melting on your tongue! During this topic, we will be investigating solids, liquids and gases and how materials can change between states. We will be categorising some of Willy Wonka's latest inventions and testing them carefully (and perhaps eating a few too!). We will also be looking at the process of the Water Cycle!



History

Where does chocolate come from? Who first discovered cocoa? And who first thought of making it into food and drink? We will be finding out as we learn all about the Mayan civilization and the history of Belize. We are going to be exploring the differences between the Mayans and the UK at the time. We will be investigating their clothes, food, homes and even the political systems they had, as well as investigating the mystery of how the civilization ended.

Shared home learning:

Please encourage your child to read for 15 minutes, as a minimum everyday. This should be logged in their reading journal on a daily basis. Our vocabulary and spellings will be shared with you and sent home with your child. We are beginning to move away from using our Seesaw platform this year. More information will be sent out to you in due course.

Important dates:

Monday 31st August—Bank Holiday Monday
Wednesday 30th September—Flu Vaccinations
Wk/b 5th October—Parents Evening Week Friday
9th October—World Mental Health Day

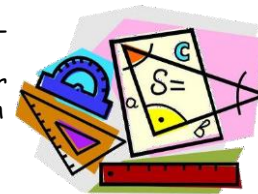
Parent drop in—Every Monday, you will have an opportunity to watch and support the start of the day with your child's class. This will commence on Monday 7th September and will be from 8:40-9:05am. Any further dates that are yet to be confirmed will be communicated with you in due course.

Mathematics:

We are starting off our fantastic year investigating our way around the number system to see what we can find. We will be looking at place value, rounding, decimal points and comparing numbers, as well as becoming number detectives by the end of the term.

We will finish off the half-term putting all of our number knowledge to the test and applying our skills in our calculations and problem solving with addition, subtraction and multiplication.

Phew! What a busy half term of Maths...



If you would like to help your child at home, that would be wonderful. We will be focusing on times tables and multiplication throughout the year. How quickly can your child recall their multiplication facts: on your marks, get set, go!

Computing

For Computing, we are going to be learning about how to stay safe online. We will be looking into how to manage online relationships with our peers and what constitutes online bullying, as well as identifying good sources of information.

Art

Children will be mastering the art of weaving by using a range of materials and resources to create their own Mayan headdress. They will use techniques which require more accuracy to cut, shape, join and create their work.

R.E.

This half-term, our focus in R.E. will be Christianity and Judaism. We will be exploring what a pilgrimage is and the importance of pilgrimages and sacred places within communities and religions.