




Oakwood Primary Academy
Learning Journey for this term and how you can support your child

Autumn Term 3 and 4 - 2022	Year Group Year 4	Theme Ancient Rome (Term 3) and Australia (Term 4)
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Dear Parent and Carers,

Please find attached the programme of learning your child will be doing this term. There are many ways in which you can help your child at school, but the most effective way is to show an interest and to encourage your son or daughter to talk to you about what he or she is learning in school.

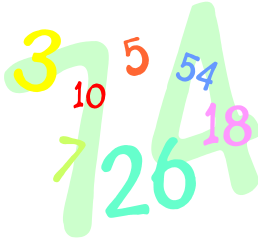
This year we are continuing to develop our thematic approach to learning with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. Each of our themes will have a STEM focus which will drive the learning through the rest of the topic.

<p>English</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>During Term 3, the children will be looking at a range of fiction and non-fiction writing. The beginning of the term will be based on writing a detailed set of instructions linked to their Design and Technology learning on how to make a functioning Roman chariot. The children will look at the features of instructions and use strong examples to base their independent work on. Having written the instructions, the children will then follow them to make their final DT project. Later in the term, children will explore the genre of myths and legends and write their very own story based on their Ancient Rome learning. In term 4, when exploring Australia, the children will write a series of diary entries linked to the journey focused on in 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea'. Throughout this topic, the children will also get the exciting opportunity to become pen pals with some children from a school all the way in Australia.</p> <p>This academic year, handwriting and high expectations on presentation is a whole school focus. Children will continue to learn how to write fluently in cursive script. There will be short daily handwriting sessions in order for children to practise their cursive handwriting.</p> <p>Term 3 and 4 also presents us with lots of exciting texts in our Reading lessons; from 'Romans on a Rampage' by Jeremy Strong, to 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit linked to Ancient Rome and 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea' by Jeannie Baker linked to Australia. The children will be immersed in a range of exciting and engaging stories to boost their love and engagement in reading. Regular reading comprehension sessions and activities will ensure the children are showing a strong understanding of the texts they are reading. Alongside this, the children will continue to follow the REN reading scheme and they will be tested on their understanding of each book they read, gaining rewards related to their success.</p>
<p>How you can help</p>	<p>Reading to and with your child is one of the most important aspects of their learning and provides them with the skills and confidence to fully access their learning across the whole curriculum. Explaining and discussing new vocabulary and asking questions is especially helpful, this encourages your child to think about word meanings and deepen comprehension skills. Please try to read with your child every day and when reading the school reading book with your child to record your comments in their reading diary. Encourage your child to read a range of texts as well as their school</p>



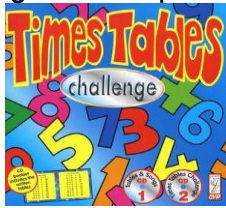
reading books and encourage them to work towards their next target for the Reading REN reading scheme.

Mathematics



In Maths during term 3 and 4, children will be focussing multiplication and division, shapes, time, fractions, decimals, and statistics. To begin term 3, our focus will be on reinforcing learning of multiplication and division. Children will explore this using a range of manipulatives to aid their learning including place value counters, arrays and bead strings. The children will start to develop their understanding of shapes to help them within their DT project of designing a Roman Chariot. When looking at the properties of shapes, children will begin to compare and classify geometric shapes based on their properties and size. Times Tables will be a core focus for the children this year in Year 4 and they will be practicing daily to improve their fluency and speed.

How you can help



We cannot emphasise enough the importance of your child learning their times tables. Please practise these at home. If possible, encourage the children to use Times Tables Rockstars; www.trockstars.com/login. Children can play a variety of times table games. In the Garage game children can play using times tables set by their teacher whereas, the Studio section will go up to 12x12. Children can earn certificates by playing in the Studio section these achievements are shared at our Celebration Assembly.

Take the opportunity with your child to discuss maths in the everyday world, such as getting your child to use money and tell the time using both an analogue and digital clock. Help your child to confidently count in 4s, 6s, 7s and 8s. Encourage rapid recall of number bonds to ten and twenty.

Additionally, please encourage your child to add and subtract numbers both mentally and using columnar methods (the method most adults would have learnt at school). Please keep an eye on newsletters and on the website for maths updates and links.

THEME

Term 3 Ancient Rome

Term 4 Australia

Following a thematic approach, we will be covering the following aspects of the curriculum...




STEM






Science, Technology,
Engineering and
Mathematics



Our curriculum will be driven from a STEM focus. We will focus on developing STEM Skills across all areas of the curriculum: problem solving, creativity, inquiry skills, observation, flexibility, and collaboration.

In Science this term, we will be looking at the digestive system and its overall function within the human body. We will take time to look at what keeps the digestive system healthy as well as being able to identify our teeth and how to keep them healthy. In term 4, in our Australia topic, the children will be exploring living things and their habitats; recognising that environments can change and how this can impact living things. The children will also be working on classifying and organising living things based on their characteristics.

	<p>Within our Design and Technology learning in term 3 we will be exploring how chariots were used during Roman times and will develop a range of skills and techniques to design, build and evaluate a functioning Roman chariot. In term 4, children will develop their cooking skills and will bake traditional Australian Lamingtons using a range of cooking techniques.</p>
<p>History/Geography</p> 	<p>Our History and Geography learning in term 3 will focus on the development of Ancient Rome and what life was like for those living there. Children will explore the key dates in the expansion of the Roman Empire and place them on a timeline using BC and AD. Children will also locate significant events and will develop an understanding of why Rome was the capital city. In term 4, the children will explore why people choose to live in rural areas and will identify the key human and physical features of Australia.</p> <p>Within our learning this term, children will also consider the similarities and differences between ancient religions and religions today. Throughout our History and Geography learning this term, the children will continually be encouraged to develop their inquiry skills and will delve into their topic with inquisitive minds, looking for answers to a variety of questions.</p>
<p>Art and Music</p> 	<p>In Music in term 3, the children will be exploring the theme of rhythm and tempo in music as well as refining their skills in singing in two parts. The children will use these skills to work towards their final destination of performing a piece of drama to describe the story of Ancient Rome. Throughout both terms, the children will also be continuing their weekly Brass lessons which will be taking place each Monday afternoon with an external tutor. These lessons are a great opportunity for the children to learn a new instrument and grow in their musical skills.</p> <p>For Art in term 4, the children will explore the traditional aboriginal art of Australia and will work to create their own artwork inspired by aboriginal techniques. Within their art, children will also continue to develop their skills in using their sketchbooks to practice and refine their art skills.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>Many of our computing sessions this term will be linked to the History and Geography theme. We will be collecting and presenting data using a range of IT programmes.</p> <p>As well as using technology to research and present, the children will also be designing and creating their own Roman game using Scratch which will portray the Chariot racing in the Circus Maximus in Rome.</p> <p>For computing term 4, the children will continue to explore using technology safely and respectfully in a variety of ways. The children will also develop their word processing skills and will use the laptops to write regular letters to their pen pals in Australia.</p> <p>As always, the children will be encouraged to conduct themselves safely online and we will be focussing strongly on e-safety throughout the term and how the children can use technology responsibly.</p>
<p>PSHEE</p>	<p>In term 3 and 4, the children will explore the important topic of how we manage our feelings as well as what makes up our individual identities. Within these topics, the children will continue to develop their understanding of being respectful of people's differences and positively managing their own emotions as they get older.</p>

	<p>Also this term, as in line with Government guidance, the children will continue looking at Relationships and Sex Education. This topic will be supported by previous learning and will have an emphasis on the changes the body goes through during puberty as well as what healthy relationships look like.</p>
<p>RE and Collective Worship</p> 	<p>Our Collective Worship Programme will include links to multi-cultural festivals, reflection about ways to be ready, respectful, and safe in school along with celebration of achievement.</p> <p>Within our RE lessons in term 3, we will be focusing on the Hindu religion and what it looks like to be a Hindu in Britain today. As we move into term 4, we will begin to explore why Christians call the day that Jesus died 'Good Friday' in the lead up to Easter.</p> <p>In addition to our core RE learning in term 3, the children will also be looking at the religious beliefs of the Romans and will be identifying and gods of Ancient Rome and what they represented to the roman people.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>This year, children will need to bring their PE kits into school on their PE days and change in class. Please ensure your child's PE kit is clearly labelled and in school each week. In PE this term, children will develop their fitness and stamina through a variety of sessions which will focus on spatial awareness, agility and teamwork. In class, children will have opportunities to be active by taking part in wake and shake, Jump Start Jonny and GoNoodle activities. Additionally, they will be completing the daily mile in the afternoon.</p>
<p>French</p> 	<p>In French, children will be developing their vocabulary in pronouncing their colours, foods and what they like and dislike. The children will use this in order to pretend are in a French restaurant, ordering and asking for food. The children will develop their speaking and listening skills and will be able to hold conversations about themselves with their peers.</p>
<p>Ready, Respectful, Safe</p> 	<p>Our school rules are based on Ready, Respectful, Safe. Please refer to the 'Managing and Supporting Positive Behaviour Policy' for additional information about behaviour expectations at Oakwood.</p> <p>In class, teachers will be using the Recognition Board to promote positive behaviour. This is a great way to reinforce the behaviour and actions expected in the classroom and provides an opportunity to celebrate the children's positive actions.</p>

Parent information for this term

Teachers in the Year 4:



Miss Kelly
Lagan Class



Miss Hoppins
Trent Class

What to bring to school each day:

Your child should bring their reading books, reading diary and book bag to school each day. We aim to change your child's book once a week, they can also take a library book home. Please note that no new library book will be allocated until the previous one has been returned to school.

Water bottle:

Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school every day.

Homework:

As with the start of the year, we will be continuing to focus strongly on reading so we please ask that you read with your child regularly. We will also be sending weekly spellings home with your child each Friday which they will be tested on in the following week. Please ensure these are practiced daily alongside their times tables.

Communications on the School Website

Please keep informed about dates, events and information by visiting our school website regularly. If you go to the school website and select the **Parent** tab at the top. This is the place where you will find all the newsletters, letters, forms and school dinner menu.

Contacting your child's teacher

At the start of the day your child's teacher will be supervising the safe entrance of all children into the class, if you have information to pass on, please email or call the school, and someone can deal with your query or question as soon as possible.

We have been so impressed with the children so far this year and we are so excited to see the amazing learning they continue to produce in term 3 and 4. As always, if there is any way we can further support you and your child with through the upcoming term, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.
Miss Kelly and Miss Hoppins

