



# Year 4 – Spring 1



## Ambitious Learners



### Concept: Diversity and Resilience

The Big Debate: **Keeping safe spiritually, mentally and emotionally is all our responsibility physically and online.**

#### What will the children be learning?



In this project, the children are learning about the importance of keeping safe spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and having an acute consciousness of looking after their bodies. By applying school values and learning about online safety and keeping safe in PSHE, the children will develop key skills to help themselves, and others, in a variety of situations. The children will draw on all of their learning during the Big Debate at the end of the half-term. Please see the curriculum section on our school website for more details about the subjects and skills to be covered.

#### English

In English, the children will start the term by reading J.K. Rowling's literary sensation *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* to learn how characters are developed. After watching clips from the film, and unpicking the writer's techniques, the children will learn how to make a character come to life through the use of dialogue and a technique known as 'show, not tell'. The children will mirror this in their own writing. Next, the children learn a variety of writing techniques in the art of persuasion, including power of three, empathy and 'buttering up' the reader. The grammar focus will be structuring compound and complex sentences with understanding, using a range of fronted adverbial starters, and using of paragraphs with understanding. The children will try to convince wand maker Ollivander to sell a wand of their own design with persuasion and precise use of word choice.

#### How to help at home

- Spelling continues to be a priority in year 4. Please continue to work on the National Curriculum spellings for year 3 and 4, these are in the spelling homework booklet.
- Remember to use Spelling Shed to help your children practise the weekly spelling rules
- Regular reading with your child is the best way to help at home. It is part of homework, and the children can earn house points if they read regularly each week. Please take time and listen to your child read, even if they are confident, it is also beneficial to ask your child questions.
- To help you support your child please refer to the Reading Masters booklets, which are packed with the types of questions to ask.



If you need these resources, please contact us.

#### Maths

In Maths the children are starting the term by continuing to tell the time in a variety of ways, and converting between 12- and 24-hour time. Next, the children will explore how to use calendars, solve associated number patterns, and solve time problems. The children will also learn the key skills of multiplication & division, focusing on finding area of rectangles. Next, the learning will take the children into the world of fractions. As well as adding and subtracting fractions, the children will learn how to convert between mixed and improper fractions, before finally challenging themselves to solve equivalent fractions problems.

#### How to help at home

This half-term, it would be of great benefit to continue supporting your child to tell the time using analogue clocks at home. In addition to this, the children should continue to practise their times tables using TT Rockstars. Some children prefer using [www.mathsframe](http://www.mathsframe) which is super. Many of the children are improving with their speed and accuracy and it is helping them greatly with their accuracy in other areas of Maths. Please continue helping your child with mental calculations as well as their ability to calculate mentally is of great benefit to them.



#### Other information

- **PE:** This term, PE days continue on Tuesdays and Fridays. The children will be participating in lessons that develop their dance skills, including: individual and partner routines before developing these into self-created sequences. On Tuesdays, in the outdoor sessions, the children will be learning essential skills for hockey, including passing, dribbling and shooting as part of a team.
- **Library:** Every Friday, the children will have the opportunity to visit the school library. Children are encouraged to choose two books from the library, to enjoy and share with you at home. They are able to visit the library daily at break times.
- **Cloakrooms:** Space in the cloakroom is very limited; please ensure your child only brings essential items to school i.e. water bottle, planner, coat and PE kit. Please can you encourage your children not to bring rucksacks to school, as pupils cannot hang their coats, P.E. bag and a rucksack on a peg.