



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Spring Term 2 in Year 4 at Newhall Junior School. We hope that the children had a relaxing break and we look forward to another half term full of learning. The children have showed wonderful enthusiasm so far this year and we are excited to continue building on this foundation. We look forward to beginning our learning with a visit from SilverScreen on **Monday 23rd February**, who will teach the children about the Roman Empire before turning this learning into a film. We ask for a £5.00 voluntary contribution towards the cost of this workshop, which is payable via Beehive. We will host a **Roman Parent Workshop** in the school hall on **Thursday 26th March** from 2pm, where the children will share their learning from the topic and the film will be premiered!

We would like to thank you for encouraging your child to learn their times tables through Times Table Rock Stars. Year 4 classes participated fabulously well in our recent online competition, and we have had many children achieving their Gone Green badge this year. The **Multiplication Tables Check (MTP)** is statutory for all Year 4 pupils and its purpose is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. The MTC will take place in early June (date to be confirmed) and we encourage you to support your child in learning and practicing their times tables.

Curriculum

This term we will be asking 'Was the Roman Invasion good or bad for Britain?' in History and studying 'Sound' in Science, whilst this year's British Science Week focus will be 'Curiosity'. We will data logging in Computing as part of our 'Data and Information' topic. In PSHE, we will be reflecting on Healthy Me' and asking 'Is Forgiveness always possible for Christians?' in RE, as we focus on Easter. Tag rugby and hockey are our PE topics and the children will be learning how to make a slingshot car in our DT lessons. In Maths, we will explore 'Fractions', before moving onto 'Decimals'. In writing, we will write a diary entry and a re-telling of a narrative based on our class book, The Legend of Podkin One-Ear by Kieran Larwood. We will continue to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, linked to our Science and History topics, in Reading. Additionally, **World Book Day** will take place on **Thursday 5th March**.

We will continue to collaborate with the South Derbyshire Music Partnership. Please ensure the relevant paperwork has been returned to school. Please note, music lessons will take place on a **Thursday** and we are hoping clarinets can go home with the children very soon.

A long-term plan and a curriculum map are available on the school website, under the 'curriculum' tab. These documents will provide more detail on the curriculum here at Newhall Junior School.

PE



PE lessons will be on **Thursday** and **Friday** for **4L** and **Monday** and **Friday** for **4I**. These sessions will be outside, where possible, so please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately. Children should be wearing their PE kit – please refer to the uniform policy on the school website. Children will need to have their hair tied back and have either removed their earrings or be able to take them out themselves.

Communication

At Newhall Junior School, we believe that strong communication between home and school is essential to supporting your child's success. To help ensure that information is shared clearly and concerns are addressed promptly, we follow a structured communication plan.

This plan outlines the key channels through which parents and carers can connect with the school. Your child's class teacher is always your first point of contact. They know your child best and are well-placed to support their learning and well-being. We are committed to working in partnership with you to create the best possible experience for your child. The Communication Plan is attached.

Homework and Spellings

A reminder that children should be accessing Times Tables Rockstars and Spelling Shed (please see your child's reading diary for their login details) 4 times per week. This will continue to be monitored by your child's class teacher. Spelling Tests will be completed on a **Thursday** morning, with new spellings given out afterwards.

Lost Property

To cut down on the amount of lost property each term, please could you ensure all of your child's belongings are clearly labelled. This includes uniform, coats, lunch boxes and water bottles.

Reading

Your child is encouraged to bring their reading book home each day, along with their reading diary. Please set aside time at home for your child to read quietly or to an adult. Reading at home, when it is a regular habit, has a remarkable impact on reading progress. We ask that children read at least 4 times per week at home and that this is evidenced in their reading diary by an adult.

If you have any issues, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

The Year 4 Team



Year 4 Unit Four Curriculum Map



Maths

We will focus on fractions and decimals this half term. We will explore equivalent fractions, fractions on a number line and adding and subtracting fractions. We will continue to focus on our times tables, attempting to consolidate all facts up to 12 x 12.

Vocabulary: fraction, numerator, denominator, equivalent, convert, whole, partition, mixed number, tenths, hundredths, decimals.

Science Sound

Children will work towards answering 'How can we make different sounds?'. Children will identify and describe different sounds. We will use musical instruments to investigate pitch, volume and tone. We will also take part in Science Week, focusing on 'Curiosity'.

Vocabulary: vibration, sound wave, volume, ear, energy, pitch, frequency, particles, amplitude, brain, eardrum.

RE

Is Forgiveness Always Possible For Christians?

We will be learning that Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God, who came to Earth in order to save humans from their sins. We will discuss salvation and investigate how Jesus' life, death and resurrection impacts on a Christian's understanding of forgiveness.

Vocabulary: forgiveness, Christians, salvation, resentment, crime, beliefs, teachings, heaven, paradise, incarnation.

PE

Hockey and Tag Rugby

In hockey, we will be learning how to pass, shoot, dribble and tackle effectively to play hockey. In tag rugby, we will be developing our skills of passing, moving to evade and catching.

Vocabulary: puck, pass, dribble, shoot, pass, movement, invasion games, catching.

Writing

We will be writing a diary entry and a narrative based on The Legend of One-Ear Podkin, re-telling a scene from a different character's point of view. We will then write a formal speech based on the legendary Boudica. We will continue to learn spelling patterns and practice our handwriting.

Vocabulary: narrative, coordinating conjunction, subordinating conjunction, speech, apostrophe, fronted adverbial, expanded noun phrase.

History

What happened when the Romans came to Britain?

We will be learning about the Roman invasion of Britain and how the Celts, including Boudica, formed a resistance. We will discuss the impact the Romans had on the lives of the Celts, before considering the long-term legacy of the Romans.

Vocabulary: Romans, Celts, emperor, barbarian, aqueduct, invasion, conquer, centurion, resistance, legacy, empire.

PSHE Healthy Me

In this unit, the children will explore what a 'Healthy Me' looks like. We will explore friendships, a balanced diet, the importance of exercise and the impact of smoking and alcohol on our bodies.

Vocabulary: friendship, emotions, relationships, pressure, opinion, alcohol, smoking, advice, peers.

Reading

We will be learning to develop our reading skills across different text types, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. We will develop our oracy skills through classroom-based discussion. We will build on and develop our inference, retrieval, prediction, language understanding and summarising skills.

Vocabulary: retrieval, inference, predict, summarise, decoding, fluency, structure, root word, prefix, suffix.

DT

Making a Slingshot Car

We will be working independently to design, plan and produce an accurate, functioning car chassis. We will attempt to reduce air resistance through the design of the shape of the car and we will conduct a trial of the car accurately, drawing conclusions from the results.

Vocabulary: chassis, design, energy, kinetic, graphics, air resistance, mechanism, model, template.

French Playtime

We will be using language linked to playtime. We will learn a traditional French playtime song with actions. Children will learn to talk about their favourite playtime games and where they like to play.

We will continue to consolidate our understanding and knowledge of French phonics.

Computing Data and Information

We will be exploring data logging and considering how and why data is collected over time. Children will collect data as well as accessing data which they will review and analyse.

Vocabulary: data, logging, sensors, data loggers, intervals, conclusions, interpret, data collection.



NEWHALL JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Communication at Newhall Junior School



The following plan outlines the communication channels at Newhall Junior School.

Stage 1 – Child's Class Teacher

Please speak to your child's class teacher regarding your concern or question. The class teacher is the best person to speak to first as they know your child so well. They will always endeavour to come back to you as soon as possible. There may be several meetings or conversations that take place at this stage.



Stage 2 – Phase Leaders: Mr Lander (Year 3 & Year 4) or Mr Wibberley (Year 5 and Year 6)

Yourself or the class teacher may decide to move to stage 2. The Phase Leaders are all on the Leadership Team. An appointment or phone call will be arranged either via the school office or through direct contact with the Phase Leader themselves. Please note that our Phase Leaders are also full-time class teachers, but they will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. There may be several meetings or conversations that take place at this stage.



Stage 3 – Assistant Head of School: Mrs Smith (Inclusion Lead)

If you have spoken to the Phase Leader but would like further support from school, you will be directed to speak to the Assistant Head of School. Alternatively, if your concern is regarding SEND or Inclusion then you may contact the Assistant Head of School directly. An appointment or phone call will be arranged either via the school office or through direct contact with the Assistant Head of School. There may be several meetings or conversations that take place at this stage.



Stage 4 – Head of School: Mrs Weaver

If you have spoken to the Assistant Head of School and your concern or question continues then you will be directed to speak to the Head of School. Please request an appointment with the Head of School by contacting the school office. There may be several meetings or conversations that take place at this stage.

