



Autumn 2 Term – Year 4 Curriculum Overview

This term in Year 4, we are learning about:

English

This half-term begins with *Scandinavian Mythology*, engaging with mythological stories and learning to retell narratives with clarity and appropriate structure. The next unit, *Kindlekrax*, will focus on newspaper reports and diary writing, giving pupils opportunities to practise formal and informal writing styles. Following these units, the children will read the story of *Alice in Wonderland*, where they will develop narrative skills and character description, using imaginative vocabulary and detailed sentences to bring the story to life.

Mathematics

This half term, pupils will develop confidence with addition and subtraction, working with 4-digit numbers, including exchanges, efficient methods, estimating and checking strategies. They will also explore area by counting squares, making shapes and comparing areas. Later, children will focus on multiplication and division, practising the 3, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times-tables with related division facts, and learning rules such as multiplying by 1 or 0, dividing by 1, and multiplying three numbers.

Science

This half-term's unit of learning is Classification of Plants and Animals where children be introduced to the idea of classification. They will learn that animals can be split into two main groups of vertebrate and invertebrate, exploring fish and amphibians before moving on to learn about reptiles, birds and mammals. They will build on their understanding of invertebrate classification by looking at insects, molluscs and arachnids. Following this, they will learn about the classification of plants into flowering and non-flowering, identifying the key parts of each.

History

This unit continues to be Ancient Greece where the children will learn about ancient Greek gods and mythology. They will learn that the ancient Greeks held polytheistic beliefs, and that these gods were believed to live in a palace above the clouds. They will learn about key gods and their roles. They will learn that in the past, people removed some art, architecture and artefacts from Greece and the reasons for their removal. They will also learn about the Olympic Games and the Ancient Greek Olympic Games.

Art

Within 'Space' children will learn how to develop their techniques using a range of materials to create space and distance within their work. They will learn about dimensions, looking at foreground and background as well as the work of artists, Millet and Bruegel the Elder.

Design and Technology

Our unit for this half-term focuses on Healthy Cereal Bars. Children will create their own recipe, branding, and packaging for a healthy cereal bar snack. They will develop their understanding of portions and the importance of eating breakfast, using the Eatwell Plate to understand what a healthy portion consists of. They will conduct market research to identify what people look for in a cereal bar, taste test a range of different cereal bars, considering their taste, texture, smell and appearance.

Religious Education

Within RE, children will learn about sacred texts and understand how these are connected with the religion's god or a specific religious purpose, so they must be treated with respect. They will learn more about the Bible and explore the 'Big Story' of the Bible, which is about how God and his people, starting

from Creation and ending with God's kingdom coming to earth. They will learn about how Christians use the Bible and its teachings.

PSHE

Within PSHE lessons, children will learn about how to keep themselves safe by exploring a range of scenarios and discussing options, they will consider their own feelings as well as the feelings of others and why sometimes compromises are necessary. They will learn about growing and changing as well as religious and non-religious marriages, civil partnerships and what a 'forced marriage' is and within these, the Rule of Law. They will explore feelings around moving house before moving on to learn about appropriate and inappropriate touch, discussing a range of scenarios. During **Anti-Bullying Week 2026** (16–20 November), themed *Break the Silence*, children will learn how to speak up, support others, and promote kindness in their community.

Computing

Our unit for this half-term focuses on *Creating Media* using Audio Production. By the end of the unit, children will understand how sound can be recorded using digital technology. They will learn how to edit sound recordings and recognise the different elements involved in producing their own podcast, including combining audio clips.

Physical Education

Our unit for this half-term focuses on *Tag Rugby* and *Basketball*. In Tag Rugby, children will develop their skills in passing and receiving the ball while moving safely. They will practise both attacking and defending roles within a game of tag rugby. In Basketball, children will learn to dribble, change directions, and complete chest, shoulder, and bounce passes with increasing accuracy. They will also work effectively as part of a team.

Spanish

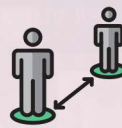
Our unit for this half-term is *¿Qué te gusta hacer?* Children will build on their knowledge of the phrase "me gusta" from Year 3 and extend it by learning new phrases to express what they like and dislike doing in their free time. They will practise expressing their own opinions and asking others about their likes and dislikes. Children will also work on correct pronunciation and reading aloud in Spanish.

Music

The unit of learning is 'Take the 'A' Train' where children will listen and focus on the song form of AABA within music, learning about the melody and accompaniment within a specific song and learn about solos and duets. They will investigate and practise their own scat singing and look at the importance of improvisation within jazz music. Following this, they will learn about Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong by listening to, appraising and creating their own compositions using their styles.

Things you can do in your Local Area to support this?

- Visit **Grant Museum of Zoology** to discover an extraordinary collection of animal skeletons, fossils and preserved specimens.
- Take a trip to **Camley Street Natural Park** where you can discover wildlife, pond habitats and plants and make observations about how living things are grouped and adapted to their environment.
- Take a visit to **the National Gallery** to explore paintings and how artists create the illusion of distance within their work.
- Explore **London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE** to step into the remains of a Roman temple and explore how archaeologists use objects and evidence to learn about past beliefs.



KEY VOCABULARY

space

the **distance** within, around and between things in art

dimension

a **measurement**

height

the measurement of something from **top to bottom**: this is one of the dimensions

width

the measurement of something from **side to side**: this is one of the dimensions

depth

the measurement of something from **front to back**: this is one of the dimensions

3d

something 3d (3 dimensional) has height, width and depth – the **three dimensions**: you can touch it all the way around

2d

something 2d (2 dimensional) has only height and width – **two dimensions**: it is flat

foreground

the part of a view that is **closest to us** in a picture

background

the part of a view that is **furthest away** from us in a picture

middle ground

between the **foreground** and the **background**

foreshortening

where an object or a person is shown to be **bigger in the foreground** and **smaller in the background** to create an illusion of space

detail

a **small part** in a work of art which is **clearly shown**, e.g., a blade of grass

Millet



The Gleaners (1857)

Bruegel the Elder



The Peasant Wedding (1567)



key vocabulary

audio	sound that is recorded or played
microphone	an input device that records sound
speaker	an output device that plays sound out loud
headphones	an output device you wear to listen to sound
input device	puts information into a computer
output device	gets information out of a computer
record	to capture sound so it can be played back
podcast	a recorded talk that people can listen to online
edit	changing a recording, e.g. cutting parts out
trim	cutting sound from the start or end of a recording
layer	more than one sound at the same time , e.g. music under talking
copyright	who owns a piece of work; you need permission to use it

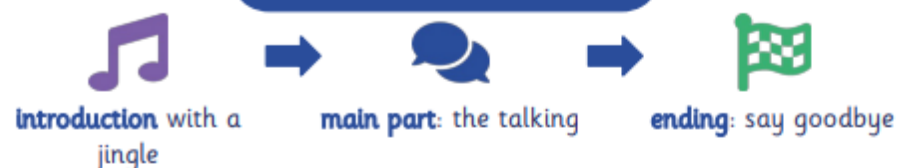
input and output devices



editing audio



parts of a podcast





key vocabulary

cereals	grasses like wheat, rice and oats ; we eat their grain
balanced diet	a diet with all the nutrients needed for a healthy life
nutrients	substances in food that help us live, grow and stay healthy
carbohydrate	a nutrient that gives us our main source of energy
protein	a nutrient that helps us grow and stay healthy
grow	to look after plants so they are strong and healthy
reared	keeping and looking after animals for food
harvest	gathering food when it is ready to eat
seasonal	food that is harvested at a particular time of year
processed food	food that has been prepared and changed
hygienic	working in a clean and healthy way with food
taste test	tasting foods to evaluate their flavour and texture



Cereal Snack Bar

Cooking and nutrition



breakfast cereals come from grains



wheat



oats



rice



corn

grown



fruit, vegetables and cereals **grow** on **plants**

reared



milk, eggs and meat come from **animals**

caught



fish are **caught** in rivers and the **sea**

making a cereal bar



butter and **golden syrup** bind the ingredients together



slice with the **bridge hold**, chop with the **claw grip**



check the **traffic light** label for **sugar**



eat a healthy **breakfast** every day



PE

Year 4 | Autumn 2



key vocabulary



Tag Rugby and Basketball

Specialist PE: Tag Rugby and Basketball | In Class PE: Fundamentals



tag	a ribbon on a belt that is pulled off instead of tackling
try	scored by placing the ball down over the try line
pass backwards	in rugby, the ball must be passed sideways or backwards
evade	dodge past a defender without being tagged
marking	staying close to an opponent
outwit	trick an opponent to get past them
dribble	bouncing the ball with one hand while moving
double dribble	a foul : dribbling with two hands , or stopping then dribbling again
rebound	catching the ball after a missed shot
sidestepping	moving sideways quickly to defend
offence	the team with the ball , trying to score
fair play	playing by the rules and respecting others

tag rugby rules



pass **sideways** or **backwards**



run **forwards** with the ball



pull a tag and shout **"tag!"**



score a **try** over the line

basketball skills



dribble with your fingertips



look up while dribbling



chest and **bounce** passes



shoot at the hoop

in class PE: fundamentals



run, **dodge** and **stop**



balance on one foot



jump, **hop** and **land** softly



move with **speed** and **agility**



KEY VOCABULARY

Mediterranean Europe

an area of Europe **near the Mediterranean Sea** (from the Latin meaning 'middle of the land')

equator

an **imaginary line around the middle of the Earth**: the sun's rays hit the equator directly, making the places located near to it very warm

latitude

latitude is a measurement that gives the location of **a place on Earth north or south of the equator**. maps sometimes show imaginary lines of latitude to help us locate places

ecosystem

a **community of plants and animals** found in a particular area

the Gulf Stream

a **current of warm water** that flows from the Gulf of Mexico in Central America, all the way across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe

the Colosseum

an ancient, giant, oval shaped **amphitheatre located in the centre of Rome**: it was built during ancient Roman times and gladiators fought there

peninsula

a region of **land that sticks out in a body of water**, with water on three sides

inhabit

to **live or dwell in a place**, as people or animals



Italy



Greece



Spain



Portugal

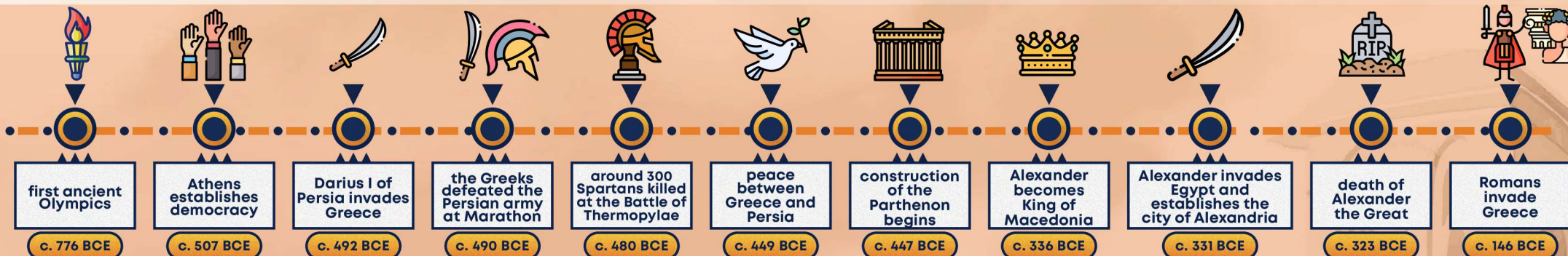


France



Turkey

country	Italy	Spain	Portugal	Greece	Turkey	France	Malta
capital	Rome	Madrid	Lisbon	Athens	Ankara	Paris	Valetta
language	Italian	Spanish	Portuguese	Greek	Turkish	French	Maltese

KEY
VOCABULARY

ancient Greece

Athenian

Spartan

democracy

Persia

olympics

legacy

an ancient **civilisation based around the Greek peninsula** and the surrounding islands

people who lived in the city-state of **Athens**

people who lived in the city-state of **Sparta**: they were known for being great warriors

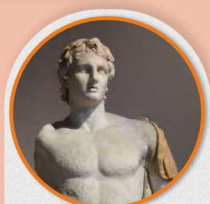
a system of government where the **people can vote to decide things** (Athens was the first city-state to develop this system)

an **empire to the east of Greece, ruled by kings**, that tried to invade Greece (Ancient Persia is modern Iran)

a **religious festival held in honour of Zeus**, attended by people from all over Greece

something that is **part of our history** that remains from an earlier time

Ancient Greece and nearby regions

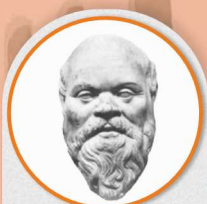


conquered Greece

Alexander the
Great

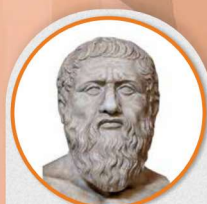
invaded Greece

Darius I



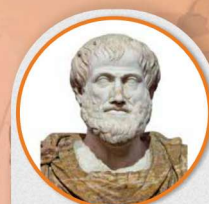
Greek philosopher

Socrates



Greek philosopher

Plato



Greek philosopher

Aristotle



Greek God

Zeus



KEY VOCABULARY

jazz

a type of music which originated in **New Orleans** in the USA

swing

a type of **jazz** known for its emphasis on the **off-beat** which was **good to dance to**

off-beat

where the **strong beat** in a group of four beats falls on **beat 2 and 4**

improvisation

inventing music on the spot to fit with an accompaniment

scat singing

where a singer **improvises melodies and rhythms without using words**

big bands

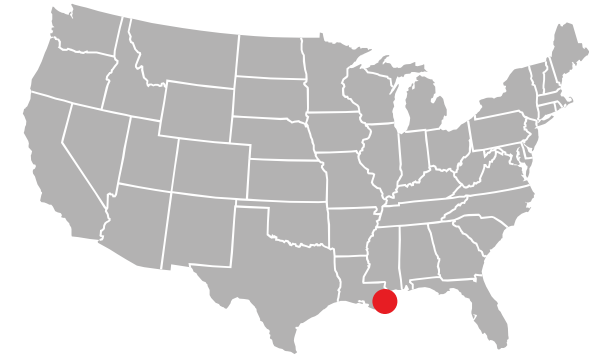
bands that were made up of **horns** and a **rhythm section** and known for playing '**swing**' music

horn section

the **saxophones, trumpets** and **trombones** in a big band

rhythm section

the **piano, drums** and **double bass** in a big band



A map of the USA with New Orleans shown by the red dot.



Duke Ellington

An American jazz musician known for writing and performing 'swing' music



Ella Fitzgerald

An American jazz singer



Louis Armstrong

An American jazz trumpeter and singer



KEY VOCABULARY

sacred

connected with God or a god or dedicated to a religious purpose and so deserving great respect

holy

is a similar term to **sacred**, often applied to things that are regarded with awe

divine

connected with a god, or like a god

Bible

religious text for Christians – a book believed by Christians to contain the revelations of God

Old Testament

the first part of the Bible – Christians and Jewish people believe it tells the story of how the world and people were created (and how God guided people before Jesus was born)

New Testament

the second part of the Bible – Christians believe it tells the story of Jesus' life, teachings and the beginnings of Christianity and it includes stories that Jesus told

Holy Spirit

Christian view of the power of God which is active in the world, drawing people towards God – it can often be depicted as wind, fire or in the form of a dove

parable

a short, simple story that teaches or explains an idea (especially a moral or religious idea)

The Bible contains stories, commandments, letters, poetry, songs and historical accounts. Some of these include:

The Creation Story is found in Genesis in the Old Testament – it tells of God making the world



The Ten Commandments are ten laws that Christians follow from the Bible, believed to be the word of God



Parables are short stories within the **Gospels** that are told to teach a lesson – for example, the parable of the lost sheep



The Gospels

These are four books of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - they are found in the New Testament and tell stories about the life of Jesus





KEY VOCABULARY

classification

animal

plant

vertebrate

invertebrate

grouping and ordering things according to criteria; plants and animals have been grouped and ordered by scientists according to their features

animals are **living things** that need food and water to grow, they **eat other plants or animals for food**, and can sense what is happening around them and can move (humans are animals)

plants are **living things** that need food and water to grow, plants **make their own food from sunlight**

an **animal with a backbone**, e.g., human, dog, horse

an **animal without a backbone**, e.g., bumble bee, spider, snail

scientists classify plants into flowering and non-flowering



poppy

flowering



fern

non-flowering

vertebrates

fish

are cold-blooded
live in water
use gills to breathe



amphibians

are cold-blooded
live part in water and part on land
usually have moist skin with no scales



reptiles

are cold-blooded
hatch from eggs
have dry, thick, scaly skin



birds

are warm-blooded
hatch from eggs
can usually fly



mammals

are warm-blooded
have hair on their bodies
produce milk to feed their young



invertebrates (do not have a backbone)

insects

have six legs
have three body parts: head, thorax and abdomen



arachnids

have eight legs
have two body parts: head and abdomen



molluscs

are soft-bodied
many have a shell

