

Welcome to the  
Year 4  
Curriculum Chat

# The Team...

- Lizzie Davies & Simon Shiel (Year Team Leaders and Wider Curriculum Leaders) – 4O & 4R

- Jon Goddard–4B

- Kirsten Schimdt–4P

Teaching Assistants – Emma Rose, Jo Bewick, Lucia Garrana, Jessie Hood, Lisa Thayers, Bob Houghton, Nicola Emms, Sonia Damian, DD Brahman

# Structure of the day

- **English and Maths** lessons will take place four times per week.
- On the fifth morning and during the afternoons we teach **Topic, Science, Music, Computing, PE, Art, Philosophy, Spanish, RE and PSHE.**

# Curriculum Coverage

Our topics this year are:

Scavengers and Settlers

Active Planet

The Greek Gods and Goddesses

Different Places, Similar Lives

Our Science topics this year are:

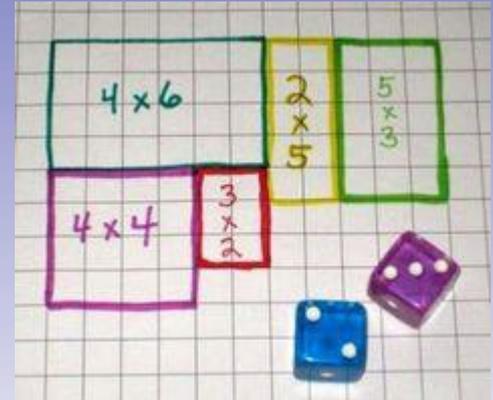
Animals including humans, Electricity, States of matter,  
Sound, All living Things.

# English and Maths



- Our focus in English and Maths can change from week to week. The best way to see what we are covering is to look at the **weekly overview** which is on the school website.
- Maths and English will be taught in class. The teacher will differentiate the lesson to meet the needs of individual children.

# Maths Mastery



Learning maths is like building a tower; children must have firm foundations and acquire specific building blocks in a certain order. If any of these blocks of understanding are missing, then the tower is shaky and can be toppled at any time with the presentation of new challenges or concepts.

## **Longer units of work:**

Children no longer revisit maths topics each term. Instead, units of work are extended over several weeks, giving children plenty of time to grasp and rehearse every concept. Each topic is broken down into key skills which are then carefully mapped out into a coherent, logical sequence. These longer units of work allow children time to master each skill before they move onto the next.

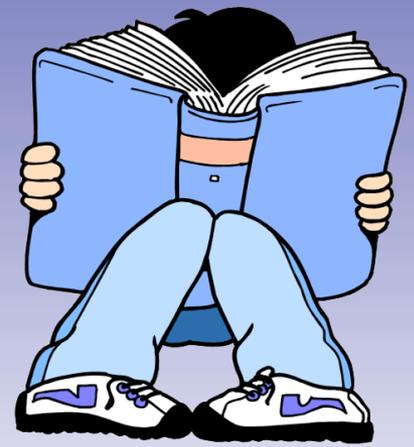
## **Lesson structure:**

Lessons will commonly be taught using a 'ping pong' style approach, so called because the teacher orchestrates a continual back-and-forth dialogue with the children, using questions, short tasks, explanations, demonstrations, and discussions.

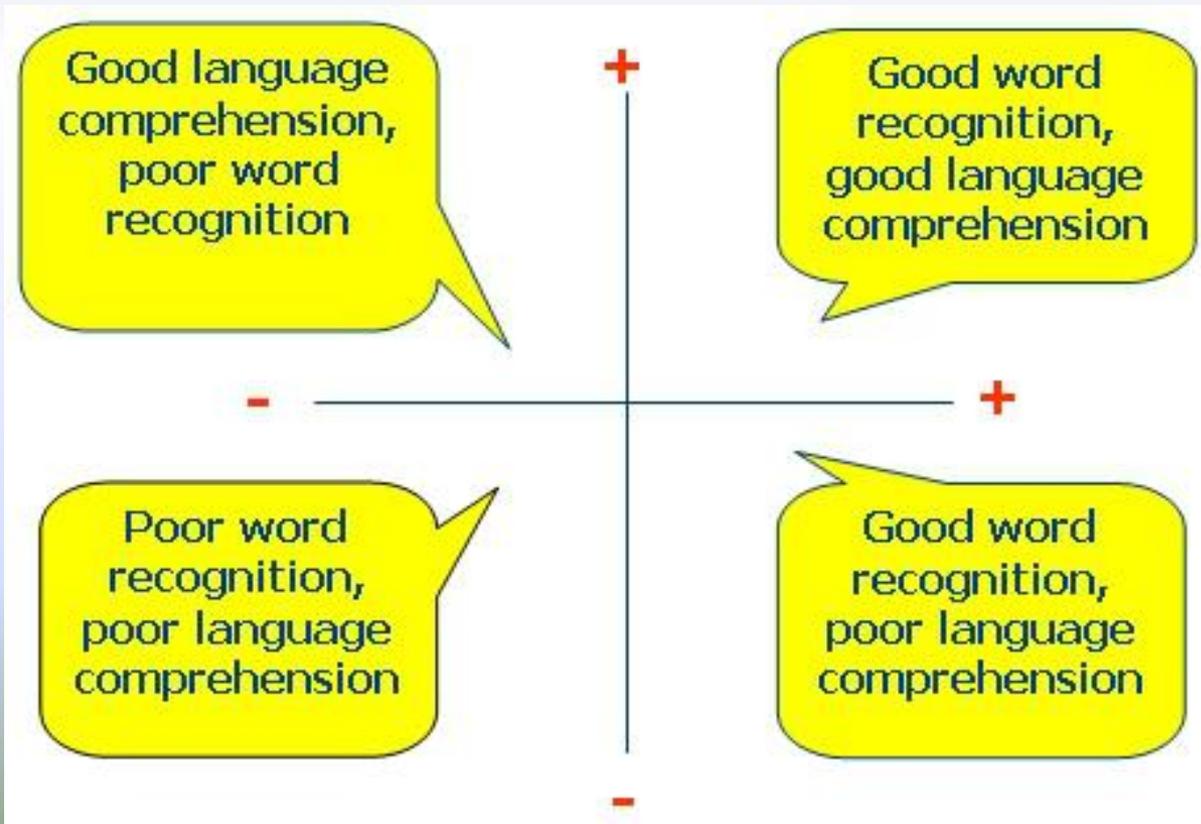
# Times Tables

- Children will be given a times table to learn each week. The same times table may be repeated for a series of weeks until it is embedded.
- Children will also be expected to learn the corresponding division fact, e.g.  $7 \times 3 = 21$ , therefore  $21 \div 3 = 7$ .
- Times tables tests will take place every Monday.
- We will also be practising times tables in a fun way during maths lessons.

# Reading



There are two main areas of reading: word recognition and language comprehension.



Children are given lots of opportunities to read independently as well as 1:1 with an adult to develop word recognition. Some children will read with an adult more frequently, dependent on need.



Language comprehension is taught and assessed through our guided reading workshops.

Children can bring in their own reading books or choose one from the library but we may send some children home with a book selected with their reading level in mind.

# Spelling

- Children will be given a list of words to learn at home each week with a short activity for them to complete—they will also be given time during the school week to practise these spellings.
- Spellings will either follow a rule, e.g. words with an ‘igh’ sound, or they will be key words that are set nationally as an expectation for Year 4.
- Children will need to bring their spelling book to school every THURSDAY and spellings will also be on the weekly overview.

# Assessment

- We assess the children's ability in every lesson and make notes on how they manage an activity and whether or not they have met the learning objective.
- These notes then feed into an individual assessment profile which lists all of the objectives for the year. This is completed and updated every half term.
- Throughout the year teachers will complete the profile and will be able to inform you of any areas that your child may need to practise.
- The information collected on the assessment profiles will feed into a database (Target Tracker) which will give each child a score according to the expectations for the end of the year.
- You will be informed as to your child's achievement and progress - relative to national expectation - at the end of each year.
- Throughout the year your child's class teacher will keep you updated on their progress.

# Booster groups and support

- Throughout the year we will be running different intervention groups to support and develop children's learning. These will largely take place during the school day and will be run by teachers and teaching assistants.

# Home Learning

Maths, English and Topic/Science etc.

Once a half term Home Learning is placed on the website for each year group. There are always a range of activities for children to access, including short tasks, games, longer projects and places to visit.

# Swimming

All Year 4 children will take part in swimming lessons this year at Park Road pool. Each class will receive a block of 8 consecutive lessons. These lessons will take place on a Friday morning.

40 will start their lessons this Friday – children will need a swimming kit in school every Friday.

# Social upsets



# Problems or concerns

As a staff we are always open to meeting parents to discuss any issues you have. Please arrange a time with your class teacher.

From 8:45 through to 3:15 our focus is the children and managing the learning environment. We are unable to discuss matters in these times which are not urgent or integral to your child's day.

Conversations about general attainment or social issues are best had at an appointed time.