

The curriculum in year four

English

The overarching aim for English at St Adrian's is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping children with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. Our curriculum for English aims to ensure that all children:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

Where possible, our aims for English are achieved by making connections with other curriculum areas and providing children with purposeful contexts in which to extend their learning.

Maths

In year 4, children continue learning in maths in the following areas: counting and understanding numbers, calculating, fractions including decimals and percentages, measurement, geometry and statistics.

Using the core content from the programmes of study for mathematics, we aim to provide children with deeper knowledge and understanding of mathematical procedures and related concepts.

In year 4, children are taught to structure their own investigations and solve a wide variety of problems. They independently develop their own lines of enquiry and are taught to prove their solutions in a variety of ways, and be able to communicate their results using accurate mathematical language.

Religious Education

Throughout the school, we follow the 'Come and See' scheme of work, which covers an extensive range of theological studies. As well as learning through weekly RE sessions, this thematic approach enables RE to be taught through other subject areas, thereby providing the children with opportunities to make connections.

The themes for year four are people, called, gift, community, giving and receiving, self-discipline, new life, building bridges and God's people. In addition, children in year four also learn about Judaism and one other of the major world religions.

Science

Our science curriculum in year 4 is taught through six themes.

In *electricity*, children learn about what electricity is and how it was discovered. They identify which appliances use electricity in their homes and how to keep themselves safe. Children construct circuits, start to create pictorial circuits and conduct an investigation into how easily different types of switches can break and reconnect a circuit.

Through *sound*, children learn how vibrations cause sounds and how sounds travel, as well as how sounds can change pitch and loudness. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the best material for soundproofing.

In *living things and their habitats*, children explore a variety of ways to identify, sort, group and classify living things. They learn how animals are split into 'vertebrates' and 'invertebrates' and begin to consider the differences between living things within these classifications. This unit also introduces children to the idea that environments are subject to man-made and natural changes, and that these changes can have a significant impact on living things.

Through *States of Matter*, we learn about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas. They will explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation.

Animals including humans focuses on the digestive system in humans and animals and the functions of teeth. Year 4 will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain.

Our final science theme, *Scientists and Inventors*, focuses on famous scientists and inventors linked to the Y4 science curriculum.

Computing

Our learning in computing teaches children to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation. Children learn to analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve problems.

In learning about e-safety we teach children to be responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

In year four, children's learning is developed through six projects:

developing a simple educational game, prototyping an interactive toy, producing digital music, editing and writing HTML, producing a wiki and presenting the weather.

Our computing curriculum is supported by the award-winning *Switched on Computing* resource.

History

Children's knowledge and understanding of history continues to develop in year four by learning about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. Year 4 learn about Ancient Greece and the influence of Greek life and achievements on the western world.

Children also extend their chronological knowledge of British history beyond 1066 and learn about the changing power of monarchs.

Geography

In year four, children continue to develop their geographical knowledge and skills through the study of the human and physical geography of a region within Eastern Europe. This learning, which links with our English and art curriculum, focuses on Moscow, Kiev and Istanbul.

In *water*, children learn about the water cycle and explore the processes of evaporation and condensation through a range of practical activities. By considering water as a finite resource, they are introduced to the ideas of conservation and consider some of the issues surrounding supplying clean drinking water to a growing global population.

Through *rainforests*, we take a closer look at tropical rainforests. From the layers of the forest and its animal inhabitants, to the unique climate found in the tropics. We will compare a British forest with the Amazon rainforest, and begin to explore some of the conservation issues surrounding the destruction of rainforest habitats.

Design technology

Children continue to work through the design and make process, developing their technical knowledge and skills in year four to work with a range of materials. Children combine the knowledge gained of circuitry in science to design a battery operated light. They also learn to make kites and mechanical posters.

Art

Our art curriculum in year four teaches children to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture. Children learn to use sketch books to record their observations and to use them to review and revisit ideas.

In year four, we explore the themes of European art, bodies and insects. Children learn about the work of great artists and designers, including Kiefer, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Dali.

PE

Our PE curriculum in year four is taught both by the class teacher and by our PE coaches.

For the autumn and spring terms, children will continue to be taught swimming. Children are taught to play competitive games, including rounders and basketball, and apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending. In athletics and gymnastics children develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance. They also learn to use a range of movement patterns in preforming dance.