Year 4	Autumn Term Overview 2026-2027

English Reading:

This term, our reading curriculum focuses on a brilliant selection of books that connect deeply with our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic) themes: ***The Wild Robot*** **by Peter Brown,** ***Two Weeks with the Queen*** **by Morris Gleitzman,** ***The Undefeated*** **by Kwame Alexander,** and ***On the Move: Poems about Migration*** **by Michael Rosen.** Together, these texts explore rich themes of identity, resilience, empathy, family, and what it means to belong.

Ways you can support at home:

Discuss belonging: *The Wild Robot* and *On the Move* look at adapting to new environments. Ask your child what helps someone feel welcome in a new place or group.

Explore resilience: *The Undefeated* and *Two Weeks with the Queen* touch on facing big life challenges. Talk together about how people find strength during difficult times.

Share family stories: Use Michael Rosen's poetry as a springboard to discuss your own family's history, heritage, or journeys.

English Writing:

This term, our English curriculum explores identity, community, and resilience through four fantastic texts: *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*, *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold, and *Leila and the Blue Fox* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave. These stories link deeply with our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic) education, sparking meaningful discussions about acceptance, standing up for others, pursuing dreams, and environmental responsibility.

Ways you can support at home:

Discuss big themes: Talk about what makes a community strong and how characters in these books show courage when facing challenges.

Explore family history: Inspired by *Tar Beach*, share stories about your own family heritage or a favorite place that holds special memories for you.

Track the journey: Map out Leila's journey in *Leila and the Blue Fox* together, discussing how animals adapt to changing environments and migrations.

Design a flag: Talk about the symbols and colors used in the Rainbow Flag, and challenge your child to design a unique flag that represents their own values or family.

Maths

This term in maths, our Year 4 students are mastering place value with numbers up to 1,000 and beyond, learning to round to the nearest 10, 100, or 1,000, and exploring negative numbers and Roman numerals. They are also practicing formal column addition and subtraction with 4-digit numbers, mastering their multiplication and division facts up to 12 × 12, and learning how to find the area of shapes by counting squares.

Ways you can support at home:

In **Design & Technology**, have your child measure materials or calculate the area of cardboard grid layouts for building models.

In **Science**, you can look at temperature data together, practicing counting backwards through zero into negative numbers on a thermometer, or grouping and classifying animal populations using 4-digit numbers.

Cooking is also a fantastic way to practice finding "1,000 more or less" using grams or milliliters on scales.

A quick car journey is the perfect time to quiz them on their 6, 7, and 9 times tables!

Science

Animals Including Humans

This term, our Year 4 students are diving into the fascinating worlds of biology and physics! In our "Animals Including Humans" unit, children are discovering how the digestive system breaks down water and nutrients so they can be distributed to keep our bodies moving. We are also linking this to **PSHE** by exploring healthy lifestyle choices, focusing on how a balanced diet prevents vitamin deficiencies and keeps us running cleanly. In our "Forces" unit, students are sharpening their **Maths** and classification skills by sorting forces into contact and non-contact groups. They will investigate how magnetic forces can act at a distance to attract or repel specific materials, and practice identifying opposing pairs of forces in everyday action—from a magnet pulling a paperclip to a shoe gripping the classroom floor.

PSHE

This term, our Year 4 pupils will explore two vital themes in PSHE: **Connecting with others** and **The online world**, with strong cross-curricular links to Computing. In our first unit, children will focus on building self-worth by recognizing their own unique strengths, qualities, and personal boundaries. They will learn how families and friendships provide crucial support systems, practice practical ways to repair friendships when conflicts arise, and learn how to identify and safely respond to different types of bullying. In our digital citizenship unit, pupils will compare online and in-person communication. We will discuss respectful digital behavior, how to avoid and resolve online misunderstandings, and how our digital choices affect personal safety. Children will learn to identify unsafe online situations, discover how to respond to online bullying, and develop the tools they need to communicate safely, confidently, and respectfully on the internet.

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History - Local Area - Castles and Stately Homes

This term, our Year 4 children are exploring how **the unification of England and Scotland under one monarchy completely transformed Northumberland's border castles from military fortresses into luxury stately homes.** By studying the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the children are learning how political peace changed the very purpose of these buildings, shifting their identity from dangerous battle zones to grand residential estates. This fascinating topic connects history with geography, as we map the changing borderlands, and art, as we examine how architecture shifted from defensive stone battlements to beautiful, glass-windowed country mansions.

Geography - Local Area - Castles and Stately Homes

This term, **Year 4 students are exploring how peace between England and Scotland transformed Northumberland's border castles from fierce military fortresses into luxurious stately homes**. Using maps to analyze the region's unique geography, the children are discovering how the strategic location and spatial distribution of these buildings were shaped by historical borders and boundaries. We are looking at the geopolitics of the past to understand why so many fortresses were clustered along the frontier to defend against invasions. Students will learn how the onset of peace allowed these cold, defensive strongholds to be redesigned into grand family estates, creating a wonderful learning journey that links our geography curriculum directly to history and architectural art.

RE

This term in Religious Education, **Year 4 are exploring deep questions about trust, promises, and what it means to be a good person.** Through the story of **Noah**, the children will make links between God's **covenant** (His rainbow promise) and the lifelong promises Christians make during a wedding ceremony, reflecting on how we can live out values of trust and care in our school and the wider world. We will compare **Christian and Humanist viewpoints** on morality, discussing the Christian belief that humans are made in the "image of God" but are "fallen," alongside the Humanist belief that people can be "good without God" through empathy and reason. The children will ask about why following a moral code helps us live together in harmony, why doing the right thing can sometimes be difficult, and how these shared values connect directly to their own lives.

Computing

In Computing next term, our Year 4 students will be exploring how technology and media shape our world. In our Computer Systems & Networks unit, the children will take a deep dive into the inner workings of the internet, **demonstrating how digital data is broken down into small packets to travel across complex global infrastructure to its final destination.** Alongside this technical learning, they will step into the roles of digital creators in our Creating Media unit. The students will learn to **sequence and edit combinations of video and still images, mastering how to trim clips, insert smooth transitions, and overlay audio or titles to improve the narrative flow of their projects.** This hands-on media work will link seamlessly with our PSHE curriculum; as the children collaborate on their films, they will engage in deep discussions about digital citizenship, online safety, and the vital importance of evaluating the media we consume and create, fostering both teamwork and a responsible digital mindset.

Art

Working with colour - Watercolour - Castles

In our upcoming Art lessons, Year 4 will be developing their watercolour skills by exploring color theory and texture through the theme of historic castles. The children will be introduced to the concept of **complementary colors**. They will discover how placing these opposites side by side makes architectural features dramatically 'pop', while mixing them slightly mutes the vibrant tones to create natural, earthy stone gradients and shadows. Alongside this, the class will experiment with advanced watercolour techniques, using a 'dry-brush' effect and blotting with sponges and tissues to mimic the rough, weathered textures of ancient stone walls. This creative project will link beautifully to our **History and Geography** topics, as the children apply their geographical knowledge of landscape positioning to paint realistic, 3D-looking stone brickwork and fortresses.

Enrichment Activities:

- Upper Redesdale Show artwork
- Harvest celebrations at church
- Pupil Parliament Elections
- World Mental health Day
- History Workshops
- Fire Safety Assembly
- Antibullying Week
- Christingle at church
- Christmas Play

Design and Technology

Cooking and Nutrition - Christmas Chocolates (Enterprise project - stall at the Christmas fair)

Through this hands-on project, the children are beautifully combining science, mathematics, culinary skills, and sustainability. In the kitchen, they will be exploring *The Science of Melting* by discovering that turning solid chocolate into a smooth liquid is a reversible physical change rather than a permanent chemical one, demonstrating fantastic practical skills as they independently monitor heat sources and safely use microplanes to infuse their creations with fresh orange zest. To wrap up their enterprise project, the children will be applying their Maths skills to complete ingredient budget sheets to manage production costs, while using sustainable thinking to design eco-friendly, recyclable cardboard packaging.

Music

This year, our Year 4 children are continuing to develop their musical knowledge, skills, and creativity through a rich mix of practical music-making, listening, and performance opportunities. These sessions are delivered by Justin Radford through our fantastic partnership with the Northumberland Music Service. The children are highly engaged in exploring new musical concepts, finding their creative voices, and building the confidence to perform both together and for others.

PE

In Year 4, Physical Education (PE) is delivered in partnership with coaches from the Newcastle United Foundation. Lessons focus on helping children build physical skills, coordination, teamwork, and a strong understanding of healthy, active lifestyles.

As part of the Year 4 curriculum, swimming and water safety form a key component. Pupils work towards swimming competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, while using a variety of effective strokes such as front crawl, backstroke, and breaststroke.

French

This term, our Year 4 pupils will be making progress in their French studies across two key units: **"J'apprends le français" (I Am Learning French)** and **"Les animaux" (Animals)**. In our introductory unit, the children will be exploring the Francophone world, gaining a wider appreciation for the diverse countries where French is spoken. They will be building the confidence to introduce themselves, share their names, and express how they are feeling in the target language. Moving onto our core vocabulary unit, the children will be working hard to recognise, recall, and spell up to 10 familiar animals along with their correct indefinite articles. This will mark one of their very first steps into sentence building; pupils will be combining these nouns with the high-frequency first-person verb "I am" to create complete short phrases.

Links to the world of work:

- Investigating castles introduces roles in heritage, archaeology and architecture
- science and maths develops skills used in healthcare, engineering and research.
- Our chocolate enterprise project gives children experience of product design, budgeting and marketing.
- Creative work in art, music and computing highlights careers in the creative industries.

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