



MERCHANT TAYLORS'

Prep

MTP Year 4 curriculum

ENGLISH

Autumn Term

This term's class reader is *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, which we share together. Pupils are also expected to read for 30 minutes every day and record this in their Reading Record. We would like the pupils to read out loud and discuss what they have been reading with an adult at least twice a week. This will help to improve their use of expression and comprehension skills.

During English lessons we study descriptive writing, instructional texts, play scripts and poetry. The pupils focus on planning, structure and characterisation within their own composition.

This term the pupils will be learning to make greater use of the dictionary and thesaurus. We will continue with weekly formal spelling lessons with creative and engaging spelling homework. Fluency and consistency in handwriting will be further developed with regular handwriting sessions.

Spring Term

This term the pupils learn about describing characters and factual texts. We revisit poetry writing and develop our descriptive language. Our focus is on redrafting and editing our own work.

In reading, the pupils continue to develop their reading comprehension skills through in depth discussions and written exercises.

Summer Term

Our focus for the first half of this term is descriptive writing and comprehension and grammar skills in the lead up to the exams. For the second half of term, we focus on writing recounts and diary entries.

We do not set any new spellings to learn for the first half of term.



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MATHEMATICS

Autumn Term

During the term the pupils:

- Revise their knowledge of place value and rounding.
- Develop and refine their methods of multiplication and division using 3- and 4-digit numbers.
- Develop their understanding of fractions by finding equivalent fractions, subtracting and adding fractions, finding fractions of a set and converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers.
- Interpret information from bar graphs and tables.

There is a strong emphasis on developing mental calculation strategies.

Regular practice of number facts including multiplication tables, addition and subtraction facts should be completed as part of their homework. We also continue to use manipulative maths equipment to support the pupils' learning.

Spring Term

Pupils require a **protractor** and **set square**.

Our focus for this term is on fractions and using the bar model drawing to solve word problems relating to fractions. We also learn about angles. We continue to focus on mental maths skills to reinforce addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts.

Summer Term

In the first half of term, we learn about decimals and revise the topics we have covered so far this year in preparation for the examination. After half term we learn about shapes, area and perimeter.



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SCIENCE

Autumn Term

In the autumn term pupils in Year 4 first complete a unit of work on sound and hearing, learning about how sounds are made, how the pitch, duration and volume of sounds can change and how sounds get fainter over distance. They go further to learn how sound waves travel through a medium to reach the ear, how the human ear works and finally, that loud sounds can have a temporary and permanent effect on our hearing.

Following this, the pupils in Year 4 go on to study electricity. They identify appliances that require electricity to operate, construct electric circuits incorporating a range of different components and use these circuits to investigate materials that conduct electricity. They also learn about the importance of working safely with electricity.

Spring Term

In the spring term the pupils in Year 4 learn about the variety of living things; to recognise that living things can be grouped in different ways, how to use a sorting key to classify living things and, building on their learning in Year 3, about how different living things carry out their life processes in their habitat.

Following on from this, the pupils complete a unit of work about caring for the environment. They learn how environments change, the causes of those changes and the impact this can have upon living things in those environments. And, finally, the pupils learn about food chains, to understand how nearly all food chains begin with a green plant and how feeding relationships exist in a habitat.

Summer Term

In this summer term the pupils in Year 4 first learn about teeth and digestion. They learn about the function and care of teeth, the difference in teeth patterns of herbivores and carnivores and also about the basic parts and functions of the human digestion system.

Then, following a period of revision and the summer examinations, the pupils finally complete a unit of work on states of matter. They learn to recognise and describe the differences between solids, liquids and gases, describe changes when objects are heated or cooled and use this knowledge to learn about evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.



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MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Autumn Term

Pupils begin the study of the Studio course, which starts in Year 4 with the Accès Studio textbook and continues to develop with a new textbook from the same series, until the end of Year 7. This term's topics include greetings, numbers, age, days of the week, months and school objects. Lessons consider new vocabulary and also build on previous knowledge. Furthermore, emphasis is placed on grammatical aspects such as French spellings, definite and indefinite articles and plurals.

Spring Term

The pupils study the topics of the birthdays, classroom and sport. We also find out about how the festivals of Mardi Gras (Pancake Tuesday) and Easter are celebrated in France.

Summer Term

We focus on the topics of sport, animals and family.

GEOGRAPHY

Autumn Term

Year 4 pupils study village life in India, comparing and contrasting culture, climate and geographical features.

Spring Term

We concentrate on developing mapping skills including learning how to use grid references, directions, scale and symbols.

Summer Term

The pupils continue to develop their map reading skills and their knowledge of the world through atlas work.



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HISTORY

Autumn Term

The pupils study the Vikings, their impact on Britain, and the stories about them. They develop the key historical skill of making inferences about evidence based on observations and are encouraged to form conclusions based on different sources. They also consider how much of what we know about the Vikings is really true. In the second half of term the pupils take part in an immersive *Viking Day* in School to consolidate their interest and understanding.

Spring Term

The pupils study life in ancient Greece. Aspects to be covered include gods and goddesses, architecture, the Olympic Games, wars and myths. In particular they consider the legacy of ancient cultures in our society today. Their key focus is on why Greek culture is (and deserves to be) widely remembered. Pupils are encouraged to compare and contrast inferences about different types of sources.

Summer Term

This term, the pupils focus on the history of the local area and the Manor of the More itself, as well as a brief introduction to the Tudors. They investigate what we can learn about the past from the places we visit, and how different types of people lived differently in the same place using their trip to Hampton Court Palace as a case study.



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LATIN

Autumn Term

Pupils continue the cartoon-based *Minimus* course. They study commands and adverbs in both Latin and English. The cultural content is a real Roman family who lived in Vindolanda Fort, near Hadrian's Wall.

Spring Term

The pupils continue to learn about Roman Britain and improve their understanding of the origin of English words through the Latin language course, *Minimus*.

Summer Term

The pupils continue to learn about Roman Britain and improve their English by using the Latin language course *Minimus*.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Autumn Term

As part of an understanding of world religions, this term's focus is on Sikhism.

Spring Term

As part of an understanding of world religions, this term's focus is on Hinduism.

Summer Term

We complete our studies of major world religions with a focus on Buddhism.



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ART & DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Autumn Term

This term the pupils explore the art and culture of classical civilisations. We investigate the world the people of these ancient cultures inhabited and produce artwork inspired by the artefacts, buildings and earthenware which survive from the period. Pupils develop patterns and designs leading to an engraved and decorated clay slab or coil pot.

Spring Term

This term we conclude our pottery project by glazing our slab pots. After this, we begin on our design and technology project, using work working tools and skills to construct a working clock.

Summer Term

This term the pupils use woodwork skills to build a working desk clock before moving on to a project to create a moving model using levers.

DRAMA

Autumn Term

This term the pupils audition and rehearse for the Year 4 production to be performed in The Lalani New Barn Theatre in February.

Spring Term

This term the pupils continue to rehearse for, and perform, the school production. After half-term, we explore the physical life of characters in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Summer Term

This term the pupils will be focusing on character and exploring the central relationships and dilemmas in their class reader, *Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo.



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COMPUTING

Autumn Term

The pupils learn about e-safety and how to be safe when using the internet. They practise touch typing. They study factual accuracy in online data. The pupils continue to learn about different programs. They also take part in the Hour of Code and experiment with desktop publishing.

Spring Term

This term the pupils use comic strip software to design and create a comic book. They also use photo editing software to edit images creatively.

Summer Term

The pupils start with a touch-typing course for 4 weeks and then use the app Book Creator to create an eBook. They use the data loggers to collect data (sound) and use Excel to create graphs.



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MUSIC

Autumn Term

Pupils spend the first half of term learning the songs for the Year 4 Production.

Pupils spend the second half of term developing their pulse and rhythm skills through a unit based around music and machines. They explore: ostinatos and their use in music; further rhythmic values and their notation; and ensemble playing using tuned percussion (e.g. glockenspiels).

Spring Term

During the first half of term, pupils continue learning the songs for the Year 4 Production.

After half-term, pupils explore music that has been inspired by space, and develop their understanding of: programme music, and how to tell stories through sound; composing and improvising with greater attention to structure and contrast; and the history and context of works by great composers (Holst's *The Planets Suite*).

Summer Term

Pupils spend the first half of the summer term singing partner songs and rounds. This unit allows them to explore: singing songs in multiple parts, in different time signatures and with a greater range of expression; further aspects of pitch notation; and further terminology relating to the above.

During the second half of term, pupils explore Calypso music. New skills and knowledge they are introduced to include: performing melodies from simple staff notation; reading rhythmic scores and performing these as an ensemble; the origins, stories, traditions and historical/social context of music from the Caribbean.



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WELLBEING and RSE

Autumn Term

The pupils begin the year by discussing positive friendships including those online. We then move onto how to respond to hurtful behaviour and recognising the risks online and end this term by thinking about respecting differences and similarities.

Spring Term

We start this term by learning what a community is and the shared responsibilities there are within communities. We move on to thinking about digital resilience and how data is shared and used and end with learning about to make decisions about money including keeping it safe.

Summer Term

In the Summer Term the pupils learn about maintaining a balanced lifestyle and the importance of dental and oral hygiene before moving on to growing and changing when we will look at the change including the emotional changes that can occur during puberty. We end the year by thinking about keeping safe in relation to medicines and household products, and drugs that are common to everyday life.



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PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.) AND GAMES

Important Note (all terms):

Pupils will need **football boots** (Autumn/Spring) AND **astro-trainers** as well as having their **indoor footwear** available in their P.E. bag. P.E. bags should always be brought into school on Monday morning and taken home to wash on Friday afternoon. This ensures that pupils always have correct kit whatever the weather.

Autumn Term

In P.E. the pupils will again be swimming at Bushey Grove pool for their final term of the year. They will focus on improving their technique in both prone and supine strokes. An additional lane is used to further develop the more able swimmers with a focus on breathing and stamina.

Pupils require **swimming trunks** (NOT swim shorts) and a **towel** each week plus a **waterproof bag for wet kit**. Goggles are optional, but your son must be able to put them on and resize them himself. Full details can be found in the Parent Handbook.

Spring Term

In P.E. the pupils re-visit hockey with renewed development of both basic and more advanced skills. Small-sided games and tactics are developed continually with a focus on the rules of the game.

In Games pupils play rugby and take part in cross country. There is an emphasis on the further development of the principles of rugby and gameplay with an ongoing focus on physical fitness, core strength development and aerobic endurance. Low level contact rugby is introduced.

All pupils require a **gumshield** for Games.

Summer Term

In P.E. the pupils prepare for Sports Day acquiring skills associated with both track and field event athletics (throwing, jumping, sprint, middle distance running).

In Games the pupils develop their cricket skills in relation to bowling, batting and fielding, with an emphasis on tactics and playing as a team.

After Sports Day pupils take part in summer sports such as rounders and ultimate frisbee.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

EXAMINATIONS

Year 4 pupils have formal examinations in English, Mathematics and Science in late May. Revision guidance will be provided in the first week of the Summer Term.

PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS

You will have the opportunity to meet your son's form teacher in person in October and in March. In the meantime, should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your son's form teach via the office - either email or telephone them.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be set on Seesaw.

Document changelog

| Date | Note |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 2023-09-10 | Science and Music updated |
| 2023-06-13 | Wellbeing updated |
| 2022-09-10 | Science updated |
| 2022-09-01 | Created |