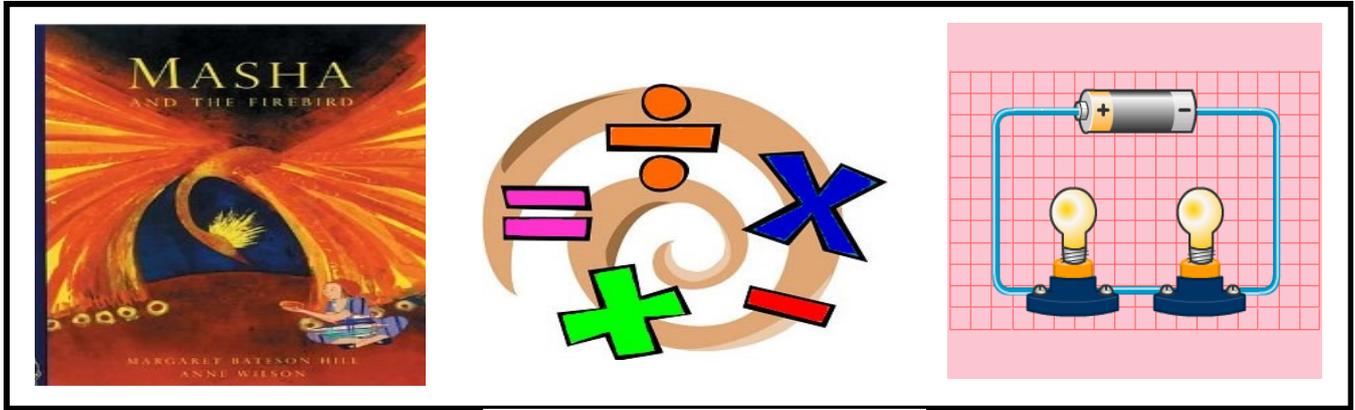


# TERMtalk

## CURRICULUM NEWS FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Issued termly Unit 3 and 4 Year 4 January – April 2019



## English

During this term the children will be studying stories from other cultures. We will be using the book 'Masha and the Firebird' to identify common features and themes in a text. They will be identifying features of a story and producing their own stories based on this book. In addition the children will be learning how to choose interesting vocabulary and manipulate sentences in order to write effective stories.

In the second half of term, the children will also be introduced to explanation texts. Once again they will be identifying the features and be asked to produce their own explanation text about the worlds most dangerous animals.

Additionally, the children will be learning about the grammatical terms pronouns, prepositions, adverbial phrases and how to set out dialogue correctly.

In spellings they will be learning how words are formed using prefixes and suffixes.

**Please read with your child every night, discuss the story and explain any unfamiliar words. This will help improve your child's comprehension skills.**

## Maths

This term, children will be continuing to use appropriate **written methods** for **addition, subtraction, multiplication** and **division**. They will **solve word** problems involving all four operations and apply written methods learnt. **Please make sure that your child knows their 2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9 times tables by heart as this will help them with multiplication and division work, as well as how to find fractions of numbers.**

In addition, Year 4 will consolidate their **Geometry skills with work** on the properties of 2D shapes; they will sort, compare and classify shapes (including regular/ irregular, acute/ obtuse/right angle) and identify lines of symmetry.

In **Measures**, the children will investigate how to find the Perimeter and Area of rectilinear shapes.

In the second half of the spring term, the children will continue to recognise fractions in the context of numbers, measurements, shapes and of quantities; use the terms numerator and denominator; write fractions using notation and words; consolidate finding unit fractions of numbers and relate fractions to decimal place value. They will practice **measurements** in a practical context as well as learning how to convert from one unit of measure to another.

## Science

This term children will be studying the topic "Electricity".

The children will **revise** what they know about it and learn the health and safety rules needed when using it. We will look at how we use electricity and what life would be like without it e.g. how many **appliances** are there at home or around the school that rely on electricity?

The children will make a **light bulb** work using a **battery** and **wire**. We will investigate the structure of electrical **circuits** and **test** them, by changing the number of bulbs or the length of the wires. These will be recorded through the use of symbols to represent the items in the circuit. Then materials will be tested for **insulation** or **conduction**. This will lead onto making **switches**.

During the second half of this term, the children will begin the topic **Animals including humans**. They be learning about **food groups**, the function of different foods (**energy, repair, growth**) and how to ensure we all have a healthy and **balanced diet**. As part of this, the children will also study the human **digestive system** and how food is transported around the body.

# OUR FOUNDATION



## Geography

This term the children will be finding out about the continent of **Europe**. In the first half of the term, they will learn about the country of Russia (linking with the story of Masha and the Firebird). The class will be learning about how the geographical features vary from region to region, as well as comparing these features with those in Britain. They will use their map reading skills to study political and physical maps of Europe, and find out about important rivers, mountain ranges and seas. The children will also learn the names of countries, which border each other, as well as the names of capital cities within those countries.

During the second half of term the children will begin by ensuring they know the names of all the continents and oceans and will revise the countries within the UK. As part of this topic, **the children** will be given research homework on a chosen **European country** then write a report about it, before presenting it to the class. **Your help with this will be greatly appreciated.**

## Computing

In Computing the children will be introduced to Excel, using their computer skills in conjunction with work in maths, geography and science. They will create tables and graphs, add labels and format titles where appropriate. They will also learn how to create lists, order and organise data.

After half term, we will be developing our programming and coding skills. The children will be using the 'Scratch' programme, which is free to download to use at home, to produce algorithms through a drag and drop format, allowing them to create their own computer games.

As you know, **on-line safety** awareness is very important. We regularly discuss this with the children, but it is also essential that parents are aware of all the dangers a child can be exposed to. **The following website:** [www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/setting-online-safety-resolutions-your-family](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/setting-online-safety-resolutions-your-family) is an excellent source of information and guidance for parents; please take time to look at it.

## PE

This term, all pupils will be having **swimming lessons** at Camberwell swimming pool. The lessons will take place on **Monday (4A)** and **Wednesday (4B)**. Swimming is an essential life skill and it is very important that each child attends these lessons. Please ensure that you child brings the correct swimming kit, **including a swimming cap** and a towel. It is also very important that they wear a warm coat.

In addition to swimming, the children will be taking part in outdoor games. We have been lucky to receive support from a professional Millwall coach, who will be teaching the children a wide range of skills essential for playing netball and cricket. The children will focus on improving their throwing, catching, aiming and defending skills as well as the importance of team work.

**Please make sure that your child has a pair of long, plain navy blue or black tracksuit bottoms so they can keep warm during outdoor lessons.**

# SUBJECT NEWS

## Art/D&T

This term children will be creating their Art work using cross-curricular links with Geography and English.

To begin with children will be creating art work inspired by the stunning architecture of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow. They will focus on the use of vibrant colours and detailed patterns in order to create a Russian inspired tableaux. The children will also have the opportunity to use different media, like chalk and oil pastels, to produce images of the Firebird linked to our English text. They will also be using pastel techniques to design the eggs of the 4 elements: Earth, Water, Air and Fire. Finally the children will be studying images of Russian Faberge eggs. In addition, the children will be designing and creating their own 3D Russian Doll pop up art work.

During the second part of the spring term, the children will **investigate pattern**. Again, this will be linked to our literacy unit where children are looking at different animals. We will be exploring different patterns in nature as well as patterns in our surroundings. The children will be using different resources such as paint, pastels and chalk to produce patterns. They will also be using collage to design their art work.

### Homework

Homework tasks are given to consolidate your child's learning. **It is essential that all children are given support with all their homework; this includes learning to spell the words on their weekly spelling list .**

**Homework will be given out every Friday and must be returned on Tuesday.**

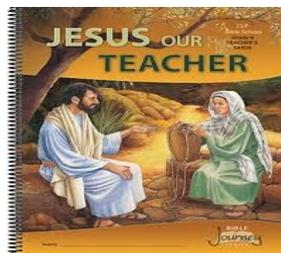


## RE

During the first half term children will be looking at the theme "Jesus, the Teacher".

In the second half of the term, children will be looking at the theme "Jesus, the Saviour".

*See separate sheets for more information and details.*



Jesus the Saviour



## Music

This term the children will continue to learn the names of musical notes (quaver, semi-quaver, crotchet) and focussing on honing their skills using pulse and rhythm. They will walk the pulse at different speeds, adding the skipping step for dotted quaver and semi quaver. Children will then apply this knowledge when playing a range of percussion instruments, as well as using it when improvising vocally. These skills will be used to compose, sing and play a class piece based on a piece of art, linked to their class book. They will also choose a picture and illustrate musically, a part of it musically, using voices and a range of instruments. Each group will be given a chance to perform to their peers, as well as evaluate and improve their composition. Children will also be given the opportunity to listen to a range of classical music and take part in whole school Hymn Practice.