



Year 4 Autumn 2 Newsletter 2020 Chocolate



Dear Parents and Guardians

We have an exciting term ahead, packed with plenty of learning opportunities which have been designed to capture the interest of every child and enhance their learning in a fun-packed and innovative way. We understand that your child's interest is likely to extend beyond the classroom therefore please find below an outline of the learning we hope to be covering during this term in Year 4, so you can support your child. The medium-term plan can be accessed on the school website at www.bankfootprimary.co.uk

Over the term children will be settling into the new topic '**Chocolate.**'

We will be using the class reader; '**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**' by **Roald Dahl** throughout our topic.

When undertaking this work, we will be focussing on giving the children many opportunities to develop independent learning skills.

Promoting British Values - Statutory Requirement

At Bankfoot, we will promote British Values, defined by the government as the following: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

Democracy –

This term we will be discussing many social issues such as the Inca Law for the common people that kept them tightly controlled.

Individual Liberty –

We will have many opportunities to explore times when individual liberty has been ignored, for example, the conquest of the nomadic tribe from northern Mexico. We will also look at the hierarchy of the social classes contained within the Aztec society.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC)

We aim to offer a curriculum focussed promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and suitably preparing them for life in this school, their next school and beyond. The range of opportunities provided for pupils in our school helps to develop their self-esteem, confidence, participation, creativity, reflection and independence.



PSHCE

This term we will be continuing to focus on being positive and staying safe. We will be sharing our thoughts and feelings about how we are working together as a class/bubble. We will continue to look at ways to ensure every member of the class and school feels valued and respected during these times.

Geographers

As Geographers, we will be studying where the Aztecs settled in Mexico. We will look at physical and human geographical features of the land and how these attract people to settle there. We will compare it our country and other parts of the world. We will compare the food they grew to that in our country, focussing on the tropical cacao plant.



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Historians

As historians, the children will be using the internet, books and newspaper articles to research detailed information related to particular events and people in history. We will be looking at different accounts of history to understand why these can give a positive or negative view of people in history. During this unit children will be taught organisational skills to carry out independent research on our topic and the civilizations of Aztecs and Incas. We will also be investigating the history of the chocolate trade and the rise of 'Fair Trade' and why it is important to give farmers a fair price for the fruits of their labour.

Artists and Design Technologists

We will be using a variety of skills and techniques to produce artwork this term. We will look carefully at pattern, colour, texture, line tone and use these skills to represent moods and images in our artwork. Children will also use the internet to research art from other countries and compare their work to evaluate and gather ideas for improvement.

Scientists

As scientists we will describe the simple functions of the parts of the digestive system in humans. We will perform investigations to show how food makes its way through the system and is absorbed into the blood stream.

We will also be exploring different types of teeth, comparing human teeth to animal teeth. We will explore food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

Spiritual Thinkers

The school understands the importance of the children needing to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and worldviews which not only shape their history and culture but which guide their own development. This term we will be focusing on creation and the environment and what it means in Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

Linguists

As linguists, we will all study French this year. We will listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining and responding. We will focus on greetings, names of colours as well as counting and writing numbers from 0 – 100.

Musicians

As Musicians, the children will play tuned and un-tuned instruments. The children will have opportunities to listen with concentration and understand a range of high-quality live and recorded music. They will have the opportunity to experiment with a range of sounds.

Swimming and Health & Fitness

It is a statutory requirement all children learn to swim, so we can stay safe around water. Regular swimming sessions outside school would ensure the children get time to practise skills they have learned and build up their stamina and confidence to progress in swimming. Due to the current circumstances, our children will not be participating in swimming until it is safe to do so. They will however continue to develop their fitness through a range of physical activities this term such as New Age Kurling.



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Behaviour

Children are encouraged to always behave, be safe and be kind at school and in the wider community. Children know that this contributes to their learning and creates a positive school ethos. Children are taught to be considerate and supportive of each other.

Bronze certificate = 50 days of outstanding behaviour

Silver Certificate = 100 days of outstanding behaviour

Gold Certificate = 150 days of outstanding behaviour

Platinum Certificate = 175 days of outstanding behaviour

Remote Learning

The period since 23 March 2020 has been one of great innovation in remote education. A wide range of approaches has been developed, tested and refined. Despite the challenges, remote education has made a significant contribution to enabling students to continue to learn and progress.

At Bankfoot Primary School we have embraced this approach and through the following ways, we are committed to providing all children with the tools and skills they need so that they do not fall back and miss opportunities to develop and grow in these uncertain times.

Friday afternoon home learning

Weekly remote learning for pupils to complete work at home now takes place on a Friday afternoon. Children have the opportunity to take home a school chromebook (or use their own technology) to complete four tasks that are set online for them to complete. There are a range of different programs that the children have become familiar with and this provides a weekly experience of completing work independently in a remote learning environment. This opportunity allows the children to become more confident in working through a remote framework and

be better prepared to complete any work that might be given through this platform. The schedule for your child to complete work on a Friday afternoon will be the same each week. Work will be set at: 1pm, 1.30pm, 2pm and 2.30pm.

Self Isolation Remote Learning

In the event of your child needing to self isolate and spend time at home rather than attending school in person, work will be prepared and provided for your child to access from their home environment.

If using your own technology is not applicable and you have access to the internet, Bankfoot will provide your child with a school chromebook to access the learning. Your child will be familiar with this platform as it has been modelled and used by them whilst they have been attending school. All of the instructions will be shared on a daily basis with a repeated schedule of time to enable your child to complete the work as they would at school. (Friday afternoon will follow the schedule shared above).

Lessons are provided for your children to complete at:

9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm.

If your child does not have access to the internet, a paper booklet will be accessible with the learning tasks in to match those of the other children working in school or at home using the internet.

Google Classroom Platform

In year 4 and as a school we are using Google Classroom (a class-organization platform) as a base for all learning to be presented on.

Google Classroom allows a variety of different tools to be accessed in one central place (Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, Drive, and other Google products) so pupils can access everything they need for a class.



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Comments

The platform allows interaction between users so staff and pupils can communicate instantly through messages and feedback is provided to the pupils on their work throughout the lesson. Pupils have the facility to respond to feedback from work completed online and share again with staff.

Muting / Unmuting

A key feature within the classroom is also the facility to mute and unmute pupils. Within the daily schedule, there are opportunities for pupils to chat, ask questions to each other and adults, but also during breaks this facility allows adults to mute children to encourage time away from the device and chat with others in their household.

Screen Breaks

Although we are encouraging all children to complete their learning online, it is also important to have a balance between working at the device and participating in breaks. Currently the children have incorporated into their daily remote learning timetable opportunities to complete a brain gym / exercise activity and time away.

The current scheduling for these times are: 9.45am-10am, 10.45am-11am, lunch break (12.00 – 12.45pm) and an exercise activity at 2.50pm. We strongly encourage all pupils to take advantage of these breaks and readjust their eyes and body.

Google Meet

Within the Google Classroom there is a facility for students to interact online in a virtual classroom environment. This is an area in which year 4 have started to explore and experienced. This term this is an area that will be developed even more.

Roles and Responsibilities

During remote learning, it has become even more important for all parties to take responsibility to make sure that remote learning can take place successfully.

During Friday afternoon home learning time and in the time of self isolation remote learning new responsibilities have developed for the children. On a Friday morning, it is a responsibility of the child to bring to school with them a safe and appropriate bag that they can take their chromebook home in (if your child is taking a chromebook).

Once completing the work – in the order set and shared by the class teacher – on Monday morning it is the responsibility of the child to bring their chromebook back to school so that it can be placed on charge ready for re use later that day. If your child forgets to bring their chromebook back to school this can affect the learning sessions for the rest of that day

Parent user guides

Please use the link below to view videos for your own knowledge on how work is submitted and how the google classroom can be used.

Google classroom user guide

<https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/sh2-bankfootprimary-co-uk/media/downloads/googleclassroomforparentsandchildrenhelpguideforwebsite.pdf>

Finally...

We very much appreciate and value the support you give your child. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 4 team.