

Let's Be Historians!

Year 4 – Autumn 1

Science: In science, we will be looking at electricity. The children will be learning about electricity and will learn how to create a circuit to light a bulb. They will also explore which materials are insulators and conductors and then use this information to make their own switches.

History: This half term we will be focusing on history and we will be learning about World War 2. We will be looking predominantly at the experiences of children living through the Blitz and being evacuated.

Music: We will be rehearsing our songs for our performance this half term which is all about World War 2. We will also add accompaniment using glockenspiels.

French: We will be learning the words for the different colours and incorporating them into sentences expressing a preference.

ICT: We will be following the National Centre for Computing Education scheme, learning about computing systems and networks – The Internet.

PSHE: We will take a look at 'Me and My Relationships'. We will continue to follow the SCARF program and understand what is required for a positive healthy relationship.

RE: The enquiry question for this half term will be 'What do we mean by truth? Is seeing believing?'

Art: Throughout the year we will develop the use of sketch books to record, review and revisit the children's ideas, beginning with exploring different media for drawing and looking at shape and form. The children will combine digital images with their drawings to create a picture of evacuee children.

PE: This half term we will be taking part in swimming and dance where the children will learn jive moves linking with our topic on WW2.

Reading

Our class text is 'My Best Friend the Evacuee' by Sally Morgan, which tells the story of a friendship of two children during the war. It is written as a series of letters that the two characters write to each other, which gives the children a narrative style they have not encountered yet.

Writing

The children will then write their own letters in a role as children who have experienced the Blitz. We will also be exploring the genre of diary writing and then the children will write diary extracts in role as children who have been evacuated. Our grammar focus this half term is using paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme and using expanded noun phrases.

Maths

We will continue to follow the Maths Mastery scheme of work, which develops the children's mastery in the subject. We are starting with 'Reasoning with large numbers' followed by 'Number' (Addition and Subtraction). We will also begin to focus on times tables in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June 2025. More information about the MTC can be found in the Welcome to Year 4 booklet, and there will be a meeting to give you more information nearer the time.

TTRS - <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/66853>

Homework

Alternating English and maths homework will be set on a Tuesday to be handed in the following Monday.

Reading

The expectation is that children will read at home **4 times** a week. Any additional reading will earn a Ship Token. Reading is to be recorded in the reading record.

We will be continuing our fluency reading approach this half term.

Times Tables

Please check the back of your child's reading record to see which times table they are currently working on.

If they have already completed all of the stages, please continue to practise to ensure they maintain their speed. Please record all completed times tables homework in their reading record.

Children have access to 'Times Tables Rock Stars' through their school login details.

Important Dates

- **Wednesday 2nd September** – children return to school.
- **Friday 4th September** – World War 2 Day (dress up)
- **Wednesday 21st October at 2pm and at 5:30pm**– Year 4 Production of 'Suitcase Stories' – all about World War 2.



Things to remember

PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING!

These should be in school **every** day:

- **Named** water bottle.
- Healthy snack or pre-paid money on parent pay
- Reading book and record.
- Homework book.
- PE kit for **indoor and outdoor** lessons.
- Coat and bag.

PE

Children to have their P.E kit in school Monday to Friday every week. Taking it home on a Friday for washing.

Reminder – long hair must be up and **all** jewellery removed.

How can you help?

- Help your child to research a family story from World War Two. They may need to speak to relatives about what they remember older family members telling them. Do you have any photos or documents you could look at?
- Look around Mersea or your local area for things to do with World War Two, such as the war memorial and the gun emplacement at Cudmore Grove.
- Use real life situations to practise maths, for example counting piles of coins. Help your child to tell the time by looking at the clock when you are following your family routines. For example, when you leave the house for school, what does that look like on an analogue clock and a digital clock?
- Please remember to email your class teacher if you have any concerns or queries and we will get back to you as soon as we can.