



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

*Sharing our learning*

## Academic Year 2013-2014

- Year: 4
- Term: 4

## Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs D Evans
- Ms C Kiernan
- Miss Pendlebury
- Mr Hawley
- Mrs Dewsnap

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term we continue to pilot our new curriculum as we continue with our whole-school 'Theme' called 'Marvellous Machines'.

This is our fourth curriculum overview of the year and the aim remains to provide you with information about what your children will be learning along with tips for supporting them at home. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the parent/carer workshop focusing on subtraction and addition strategies has been rescheduled for **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014** and will take place from 3.30pm starting in the school hall. You are all welcome to come along in order to find out more about the strategies your children are taught.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or if you require any support yourself please let us know straight away. We would still like to hear from you if you feel able to support us in any way – especially if you have an interest or expertise in anything being covered during this theme. At the end of the theme we intend to have a whole-school exhibition - to which you will all be invited - so we can share what we have done and celebrate what we have learned.

I would also welcome your thoughts and feedback either throughout the theme or via a questionnaire I will send home towards the end of the theme. Thank you for your continued support - it is appreciated by us all.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

## R.E. Topic 1: The Eucharist

Children will be learning about the Eucharist, the mass, and how they help us to live in communion with others.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *Talking about the different parts of the mass and what they mean.*
- *Discussing living in communion with others, giving and receiving, and what they mean to you.*
- *Thinking together about the Eucharist, the part of the priest and the congregation.*

## R.E. Topic 2: Easter/Lent

Children will be learning about Lent and Easter, and celebrating growth to new life through self-discipline within the season of Lent.

### **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *Talking about self-discipline and how it has affected your life.*
- *Discussing what this time of year means to you.*
- *Thinking together about the events of Holy Week.*

## English: Daily Reading & Phonics Skills

### **Read Write Inc Sessions**

Children on the Read Write Inc programme will continue to have daily sessions with their group aimed at developing confidence with phonics, reading and writing. Children are assessed regularly to ensure that they are in the right group. If you would like more information about the programme please let us know.

### **Guided Reading**

All children no longer involved in the Read Write Inc programme will have daily reading activities to boost their levels of confidence and enjoyment as well as their comprehension skills.





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## **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- Talking to your child about the book they are reading on a daily basis if possible, as well as enjoying all sorts of other books and reading materials together.
- Using the reading questions we shared at parents evening to ask children questions about their book which will encourage them to deepen their thinking. If you did not receive a copy of these questions and would like one, please let Miss Kiernan or Mrs Evans know.
- Supporting your child to learn and practise their weekly spelling rules.

## **English: Basic Skills**

All children will benefit from having daily handwriting and spelling practise and regular grammar and punctuation sessions focused on their *individual* needs.

## **Mathematics: Daily Number & Calculation Skills**

We will focus on:

- Mental and written methods for addition and subtraction and multiplication and division.
- Noticing and making use of the link between addition and subtraction, and between multiplication and division.
- Interpreting word problems and choosing an appropriate calculation and method to solve them.
- Number sequences and patterns, such as multiples and counting forwards and back in different steps.

## **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- Learning and practising times tables, including the related division facts – we will be doing weekly tests and send home the times table each child is currently working on.
- Working on the specific mathematics targets on your child's PAM sheet.

## **Theme 1 Introduction: Marvellous Machines**

We have made a great start to the theme of Marvellous Machines, and will be continuing this up to Easter. This term, we will be moving on to investigating gears and how they can be used to make a machine work, and to carrying out a more in-depth project about the local area of Sheffield and its history. The theme will continue to consist of cross-curricular lessons and separate modules to ensure that everything is covered and so that deep learning can take place.

## **English: Creative Writing**

Children will continue to practise different styles of non-fiction writing to write about the machines they design and build. We will be writing descriptively and using our research into the steel industry to write from the point of view of someone working in a steel factory.

## **Mathematics within the Theme**

We will focus on:

- Data handling, including drawing and interpreting different types of tables and charts.
- Measures, particularly focussing on time.
- Shape – properties of 2D shapes such as right angles, parallel lines, numbers of sides etc.

## **You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- Helping them to be able to tell the time on an analogue clock.
- Looking at and interpreting different timetables together (television schedules, bus timetables etc).

## **Science**

Continuing from Term 3, we will be using electricity and circuits in order to create moving models with a system of gears and a motor.





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## Geography/History

This term we focus on a regional study of our local area and a study of local history, including Sheffield's importance in the history of the steel industry. This is carried over from term 3.

**We would really like to complete an oral histories project about Sheffield/Yorkshire and will be appealing for any family or friends who have lived in Yorkshire for a significant part of their life to be interviewed by the children and share some of their experiences and memories. You don't need to have been involved in the steel industry.**

**You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *Discussing different features of the local environment.*
- *Talking about similarities and differences between Sheffield/Yorkshire and other cities/counties in the UK.*
- *Investigating the history of the steel industry in Sheffield.*

## Art and Design & Technology

In design and technology we will be focussing on designing and making moving models using gears and motors. Children will work in groups to produce their own model of a fairground with different types of rides/attractions from their own ideas and designs.

## P.E.

P.E. is on Tuesday afternoon each week. Sessions are led by specialist P.E. coaches. This term they will cover cricket and athletics, both indoors and out.

**You can support your child's learning at home by:**

- *Doing lots of physical activity regularly e.g. playing games in the garden, going to the park, swimming lessons.*
- *By watching cricket and athletics on the television or via clips on the internet.*

## Music: 'Dragon Scales'

Music is taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher. During our 'Dragon Scales' unit the children will explore different melodies and scales. They will work out melodies and patterns 'by ear' and will sing these songs as well as learning to play them on glockenspiels.

