Year 4 Autumn 2

Subject	What is my child learning about at school?
English	**Fiction: Poetry – A Small Dragon.** Your child will be exploring the poem *A Small Dragon* by Brian Patten. Using this imaginative and magical text as inspiration, they will develop their descriptive writing and poetry skills. Children will explore the use of vivid imagery, powerful vocabulary and figurative language to create pictures in the reader's mind. They will also have opportunities to invent their own mythical creatures and write creative poems and narratives, using a range of sentence structures to engage and entertain their readers. **Explanation text – Until I met Dudley.** Your child will be learning about the book *Until I Met Dudley* by Roger McGough and Chris Riddell. Using this humorous and imaginative text, they will explore how everyday objects work and investigate the features of explanation texts. Children will learn to identify key features such as technical vocabulary, causal conjunctions and clear sequencing. They will also have opportunities to design their own inventions and write engaging explanations, using a range of sentence structures to clearly inform and entertain their readers. **Non-fiction:** Your child will be learning about the book *Starbird* by Sharon King-Chai. Using this beautiful fable as a stimulus, they will explore themes of freedom, kindness and courage while developing their narrative writing skills. Children will identify the key features of a fable, including character development, moral messages and plot structure. They will have opportunities to write from different characters' perspectives before planning and composing their own version of a fable, using rich vocabulary and a range of sentence structures to engage their readers.
	Continue adding to your glossary of interesting words and phrases you find. Remember, at Floreat we have a 'magpie wall', which we use to store shiny words that the children like so that they can use them again later. Encourage your children to steal vocabulary that shines!
Writing	**Nelson Handwriting** Your child will continue to write with their 'Perfect Pencil Grip' and 'Posture for Writing'. All Year 4 children will continue to practise joined-up Nelson Handwriting. All children now write in exercise books without tramlines.
	You can support your child by ensuring that they sit properly on their chair with their feet on the floor, facing the table with a pencil in their writing hand and their other hand on their work. Please ensure that your child completes their home learning in joined up writing and with a sharp pencil.
Reading	**Sounds-Write (Phonics)** We will continue consolidating the children's knowledge of the English phonetic code and using this to support both their reading and spelling of polysyllabic words, e.g., bi/cy/cle. **Whole Class Reading** This term your child will be reading *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* which will support the learning the children will be completing in English. The texts will be used to develop the children's vocabulary; abilities to infer, predict and explain; and the skills of sequencing and summarising a text. As well, this will be an opportunity for the children to develop their confident reading voices. We are hoping to develop their ability to express and use intonation appropriately.
	Please support by correcting spellings while your child is doing their Home Learning. At Floreat, we are direct when giving feedback e.g. a child spells the word 'accident' with an a > accidAnt, we say "In this word the sound is represented with an 'e'." Read with your child as often as possible! And, crucially, *re-read* with them. If your child has read a text out loud to you, ask them to re-read it once they have gone through the decoding stage. This will help comprehension. Finally, read it *to* them. This models intonation and expression when they re-read it for a final time. Ask your child to summarise what they are reading. Challenge them to create summaries of a section of text with fewer than ten words.
Mathematics	During this half term, children will be continuing to order and compare 4-digit numbers and begin rounding 4-digit numbers before moving onto learning about area and perimeter and the 3, 6 and 9 times tables and their relationships. They will conclude with a unit on properties of shapes, focusing on quadrilaterals and triangles. In

	all maths lessons, the children will be working on their problem-solving skills as well as mathematical reasoning. We will consolidate learning the 3 times tables and then move onto learning the 4 times tables.
	You could support at home by asking your child questions about their maths learning. For example, prove that... What if... If this equals...what might this equal? If we know that...what else do we know? E.g. If we know that 17 + 17 = 34 then what does 170 + 170 = ?
Wider Curriculum	All pupils across the school will focus on the enquiry question 'How have structures influenced our lives?' Year 4's enquiry question is 'What was the impact of the Roman invasion on Britain?' Throughout this term, children will build on their Technology, History, Art, DT & Geography skills. Pupils will learn about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain including the success in invading and conquering Britain, engage in a debate (Boudica vs Nero) and will then use their knowledge of Roman structures and settlements to design, refine and evaluate a final model of a Roman structure. Throughout the term, pupils will also be developing their independent research and presentation skills. **Computing** – Year 4 will identify the input device (microphone) and output devices (speaker or headphones) required to work with sound digitally. Learners will discuss the ownership of digital audio and the copyright implications of duplicating the work of others. We will work towards recording and editing a podcast. **RE** – This term, children will learn about the Five Pillars of Islam and their importance in the lives of Muslims. They will explore the significance of Ramadan, understand the purpose and benefits of fasting, and learn about zakat (charitable giving) and how it helps those in need. Pupils will also discover how Muslim communities support one another and will reflect on ways they can show kindness, generosity and support to others in their own lives.
	You can support your child at home by questioning them about the areas we are studying this half-term and encouraging them to read widely around them too. Any additional knowledge that your child brings to the classroom will be duly celebrated!
Character	**Character** - In Character this term, your child will be learning about **gratitude, honesty, humour and humility**. Through class discussions, stories and reflection activities, the children will explore the importance of appreciating others, telling the truth, finding joy in everyday experiences and showing modesty in their achievements. This learning will help children develop positive relationships, build strong moral character and become thoughtful, respectful members of our school community. **PSHE** – In PSHE this half term, Year 4 will focus on 'Celebrating Differences' where we will learn about how we can acknowledge the differences of others and what influences us. We will also look at ways that we can solve conflicts with others and how we can celebrate what makes us special. **Music** – This half term in music, we are going to continue learning the skills needed to play the glockenspiel. We will also spend some time preparing for our festive performance. **Spanish** – We will start our new unit 'La Caperucita Roja' where we are learning how to read the story of Little Red Riding Hood.
	In terms of developing your child's character, really question them. For example, this half-term, challenge your child's judgements – make them reason as to why they make the judgements they do and help to illuminate different perspectives.
P.E. and Dance	Year 4 are learning about Hockey and Football. Within Hockey, they will be learning all about stick and ball safety, along with how to dribble & sweep and slide. In Football, we will be looking at game related scenarios, whilst still improving our shooting accuracy.
	Please ensure your child comes into school wearing their full P.E. kit on their PE day.

General reminder – Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat in school every day so that they can play outside come rain or shine. As we know, the weather in England can change very rapidly! All blazers, coats and PE kits must be clearly named.