

CLAIRES COURT SCHOOLS THE COLLEGE



CURRICULUM STATEMENTS 2009 – 2010 YEAR 4

RESPONSIBILITY | RESPECT | LOYALTY | INTEGRITY



WELCOME TO YEAR 4!



Year 4 is a year of rapid progression. The girls are by now happily settled in the Junior Prep department, have 'learnt the ropes', and are confident in their daily routine and in our expectations. Your daughter will enjoy being no longer a 'new' junior, and will be happy to help the new intake of Year 3 girls find their way around the department and get to know staff. Mrs Taylor, our Year 4 form teacher, will already be familiar to your daughter from her History lessons. Now she will get to know her even better as she teaches her for the core curricular subjects of English, Maths and Science in addition to art and drama. Hard work and high standards are expected, but be assured that there will be plenty of fun, too, along the way! And so to business...

The Junior Prep Curriculum

In The College Junior Prep, we work on a wide-ranging curriculum which aims to:

- encourage all pupils to make the best possible progress in each subject
- promote an enjoyment of and commitment to learning
- provide a sound basis for future education at senior level

We broadly follow the National Curriculum in all subjects, with the addition of French and Drama. The schemes of work we have devised lead our pupils through organised programmes each term, which progressively develop their knowledge, understanding and skills.

This booklet consists of a collection of curriculum statements, one for each of the subjects your daughter will be studying this coming academic year. Each curriculum statement outlines what will be taught in each term together with the lesson and homework allocation per week. It also indicates how your daughter's progress will be assessed.

In September all girls are given their homework timetable for the coming academic year. Each day your daughter should record any homework which has been set in her homework diary. Your daughter's Form Teacher will check her homework diary regularly and use it to communicate any concerns regarding homework. Please check and sign your daughter's homework diary daily and use it as a means of communication with the Form Teacher regarding any homework or related problems.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

P A Murphy

Head of Junior Prep and Pre-Prep

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ENGLISH Year 4



The girls study English in line with the National Curriculum KS2 and the Literacy Strategy. They receive at least 2 periods of English daily, usually as a 'double' lesson. Each term's work is focused on a particular range of reading and writing. Reading and writing objectives are closely linked throughout, using the texts which pupils are reading to provide structure for their writing.

HANDWRITING

The girls are expected to write with a cartridge pen or pencil using a neat, legible, joined-up style. Tippex and other forms of ink erasers are not permitted.

TEXT BOOKS

Lett's Literacy, Sentence and Word Level Activity Books Year 4, Nelson English

HOMEWORK

It is expected that pupils will do some independent reading every evening. In addition to their individual programme of books from our various reading schemes, the girls are encouraged to widen their reading at home by use of the class and school libraries. Each week they have a spelling list to learn ready for a test on Friday.

In addition they are given up to two pieces of written work, which may be based on the week's spelling list, and text level or sentence level work.

Range of work:

Fiction and poetry

- Our class readers are '*Charlotte's Web*' by E B White and '*Danny Champion of the World*' by Roald Dahl.
- Extracts from stories about imagined worlds, Newspaper reports, magazine articles with a variety of cultural and social settings.
- Classic and modern poetry including poems from different cultures and times.

Non-fiction

- Instructions
- Explanatory texts
- Information writing
- Advertisements
- Persuasive writing

ENGLISH

continued

There are three strands to our literacy work:

1. TEXT LEVEL - comprehension and composition

- Organise non-fiction writing for a specific purpose, using appropriate structural devices eg headings, paragraphs, numbering, key sentences, layout
- Use skimming, scanning and note making to identify and present the gist or key points in texts
- Recognise the ways writers present issues and points of view in fiction and non-fiction texts

2. SENTENCE LEVEL - grammar and punctuation and sentence construction

- Identify and use correctly common suffixes which form adjectives (-al, -ary), nouns (-ness,
- -ment), verbs (-ate, -ify) and adverbs (-ly).
- Identify and use expressive, figurative and descriptive language to create effects in poetry and prose.
- Understand how the meaning of sentences is shaped and marked by punctuation, word order and connectives.

3. WORD LEVEL – spelling and vocabulary

Spelling – this is taught throughout the Junior Department using the ‘Spelling Made Easy’ scheme in differentiated groups. In addition, this year there will be particular focus on:

- Synonyms
- Phonemes
- Syllables
- Suffixes/prefixes
- Common word endings
- Proof reading
- Compound words
- Diminutives
- Common letter strings
- Root words

A list of high frequency words for this term will be displayed in the classroom throughout the term and will be practised regularly.

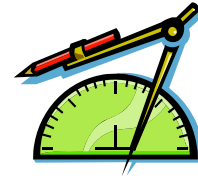
Vocabulary extension

- Words linked to making positive/negative statements
- Living language – words which have entered our vocabulary over recent years
- Vocabulary changes over time
- Nouns used as adjectives



MATHEMATICS

Year 4



Pupils study Mathematics in line with KS2 of the National Curriculum and National Numeracy Strategy. They are developing their knowledge and understanding of Mathematical language, their reasoning, problem solving and application skills within the following areas:

- Numbers and the Number system.
- Shape, space and measure.
- Handling data

Calculator skills are taught and used where appropriate but are not regarded as a replacement for good computational skills.

There is a double lesson (1 hour 10 minutes) of Mathematics every day. Each lesson begins with a short mental warm-up for the whole class in which oral and mental skills are practised and develop (eg, counting on/back in varying steps, rapid recall of +, -, x, ÷ facts, mental strategies, etc).

TEXT BOOKS

- Heinemann Maths 4 and 5 (main text books, pupils' workbook, reinforcement sheets, extension books, resource cards, home link-up exercises, check-ups)
- Number World
- Spotlight on Maths

HOMEWORK

At least 1 written exercise per week will be set, and tables are expected to be regularly practised at home.

Key objectives for Year 4 include:

- Use symbols correctly, including less than (<), greater than (>), equals (=)
- Round any positive integer less than 1000 to the nearest 10 or 100
- Recognise simple fractions that are several parts of a whole and mixed numbers; recognise the equivalence of simple fractions
- Use known number facts and place value to add or subtract mentally, including any pair of two-digit whole numbers
- Carry out column addition and subtraction of two integers less than 1000, and column addition of more than two such integers
- Know by heart facts for the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 multiplication tables
- Derive quickly division facts corresponding to the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 multiplication tables
- Find remainders after division
- Know and use the relationships between familiar units of length, mass and capacity
- Classify polygons, using criteria such as number of right angles, whether or not they are regular, symmetry properties
- Choose and use appropriate number operations and ways of calculating (mental, mental with jottings, pencil and paper) to solve problems.



SCIENCE Year 4



Pupils follow the National Curriculum Science course for KS2. They receive 4 lessons per week.

AUTUMN TERM

Teeth and diet

- Types of teeth
- Teeth and dental care
- Eating for healthy teeth

Keeping warm

- Insulatory properties of materials
- Heat conductivity
- Evaporation cooling things down

SUMMER TERM

Solids, liquids and gases

- Properties of solids, liquids and gases
- Changes of state
- Water and other solvents
- Solubility

Habitats

LENT TERM

Electricity

- Electricity in the home
- Electrical safety
- Constructing simple circuits
- Switches
- Charging batteries

Friction

- Surfaces
- Grip



ART Year 4



We hope to cover the following topics this year: changes may be made if appropriate or if opportunities for other projects present themselves:

- Signs and Symbols
- Regular patterns
- Halloween study – silhouettes
- Firework study – looking at patterns, colour and light
- Christmas Art
- Monsters
- Artist study – Picasso
- Still Life
- Irregular patterns
- Fire Study
- Masks
- Portraits
- Impressionists study
- Pictures in pastels from prints

Extra curricular activities: These may include pottery



DRAMA Year 4



The aim of Drama is to develop pupils' skills in areas such as mime, group and paired improvisations, role play and performance. There is one single lesson per week.

Activities include:

- Miming games
- Improvisation in pairs and groups
- Dialogue in pairs
- Choral speaking
- Scripted play



FRENCH Year 4



Pupils receive 2 single lessons per week.

Main Topics:

- Exchange Greetings
- Give personal information (name, age, address, birthday)
- Revise the calendar
- Understand classroom instructions
- Count 1 – 20
- Name school objects
- Learn the names of animals and basic description of one's pets
- Revise parts of the body
- Learn clothes and describe an outfit
- Use the names of colours whenever applicable
- Learn about the weather

Main resources: *Comète 1 Workbook*



GEOGRAPHY Year 4



Pupils receive 1 double lesson and 1 x 30 minute homework per week. The National Curriculum is followed using the LCP Geography scheme. Mapping skills are taught continually, linking with the topics. ICT will be used for research purposes and for data handling within the topics.

Improving the Environment

- Looking at the environment in and around the school
- Noise pollution
- Waste disposal
- Recycling
- Caring for the environment
- How the school environment could be improved

Village Settlers

- Reasons for settling in certain areas
- Requirements

France

- Finding out about different regions of France by looking at different types of holiday
- Comparing Paris with London
- Locate countries bordering France
- European countries and their capital cities

A Village in a Less Economically Developed Country

- Investigating the Indian village of Chembakoli
- Making comparisons – landscape, climate, homes, school, work and shopping.



HISTORY Year 4



Pupils receive 1 double lesson per week. The National Curriculum is followed using the Ginn History scheme and Heinemann *Explore History*.

AUTUMN TERM

Tudor England

LENT TERM

The Age of Exploration

- Why did people explore
- Walter Raleigh
- Sir Francis Drake
- Christopher Columbus
- Ferdinand Magellan
- Life at Sea

SUMMER TERM

The Stuarts

- Civil War
- The Plague
- The Great Fire

In the Summer Term we visit Sulgrave Manor, Northamptonshire.



ICT Year 4



According to the requirements of the National Curriculum, pupils are taught the skills needed to employ I.C.T. as a tool to support their learning in subject areas across the curriculum.

In Year 4, ICT lessons will take place in the Senior Computer Room, where pupils are assigned their own ID and password. In addition, each Junior classroom has four workstations, including a colour printer and one fully multi-media machine. All computers are linked on the school network and have internet access.

Pupils will be following *Developing ICT Skills* in Year 4 (Hopscotch Publications) written specifically to complement the QCA and DCSF Information Technology Scheme of Work for Key Stage 2.

Our work this year will include:

- Cutting and pasting
- Using fonts
- Reordering and editing text
- Creating repeating patterns
- Graphs and charts
- Branching databases
- The College Weblog



MUSIC Year 4



All pupils receive one general music lesson per week and one weekly Choir practice with Year 3.

Music is regarded as a practical and creative activity, and knowledge and understanding are developed through a progressive programme of performing, listening and composing activities.

During Year 4, pupils use their understanding of the basic musical 'elements' (pitch, rhythm, timbre etc) to comment perceptively on music of different styles and to improvise or compose their own short pieces. They extend their understanding of musical notation to notes on the staff in the treble clef.

Specific topics will include:

Tudor Music (linking with work in history)
Pentatonic tunes and ostinato accompaniments
Tonal colour in, e.g. Pictures at an Exhibition (Mussorgsky)
Impressionist music (link with Art)

Opportunities for performance are as follows:

- Assemblies throughout the year.
- Autumn Term – Junior 'panto
- Summer Term – Infant and Junior Entertainment and Prizegiving
- Informal music concerts

Extra-curricular activities:

- Junior orchestra (lunchtimes, by invitation/recommendation)

Private tuition:

Lessons continue to be available in piano and guitar, and group tuition in recorder is still available for girls who played last year. Some pupils may now be ready to take up an orchestral woodwind or brass instrument such as clarinet, flute or trumpet. Lessons are also offered in singing, drums, violin, and 'cello. All enquiries regarding private music tuition should be addressed to Mrs Woolliscroft, but please note that there may be a waiting list for some teachers.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION Year 4



All pupils are encouraged to take part in all Physical Education lessons that are offered to them, and should be physically active in every lesson. There will be at least four areas of activity covered throughout each term.

Throughout the year the girls will have the opportunity to take part in Inter-House events in the following activities: cross-country, netball, hockey, athletics and swimming and to represent the school in a High Five Netball Tournament.

AUTUMN TERM

Netball
Hockey
Gymnastics
Dance
Swimming

LENT TERM

Netball
Hockey
Cross-Country
Badminton
Athletics
Dance

SUMMER TERM

Swimming
Athletics
Tennis
Rounders/Cricket

Extra curricular activities

- Netball club (Autumn and Lent terms)
- Sports club (Summer term)



RELIGIOUS STUDIES Year 4



The teaching of RE aims to familiarise pupils with Bible stories and to promote broadly Christian ideas. All pupils receive one RE lesson per week.

The following topics will be included this year:

AUTUMN TERM

The Creation

- God made the World
- God made its Creatures
- God made me
- Good v Evil – Genesis 1-3
- God's Plan for the World
- God's Attempt to Save the World – The Flood
- The Christmas Story

LENT TERM

The Life of Jesus

- Jesus' attempts to explain the Word
- Miracles and parables
- The Easter Story

SUMMER TERM

The Ascension:

- The glorification of Jesus - a true and fitting end to the Easter Story
- Peter's story – Forgiveness
- Thomas' story - Doubt

Hinduism:

- Understand why worship is important to the members of a Hindu community
- Compare Hindu and Christian worship
- Explore ways in which Hindus worship and how artefacts are used at home and in the mandir
- Hindu festivals



TECHNOLOGY Year 4



There will be one double lesson per week. The topics for the year are outlined below although they are currently under review.

AUTUMN TERM

In the first half of the term we will be designing and making a storybook for a younger child. In the second half of the term we will be making a Christmas present.

LENT TERM

We will be designing and making a torch.

SUMMER TERM

We will be designing and making a moving toy that contains a cam mechanism.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

A standardised test of reading comprehension is carried out in the first few weeks of the Autumn Term to monitor progress. Each girl also takes a verbal reasoning test preceded by a short introductory teaching session. Standardised scores will be derived from these which help us gauge her learning aptitude and provide us with a baseline against which to measure her attainment. Check-ups and informal tests in most subjects take place from time to time, culminating in our main school examinations in the Summer Term.

There are two parents' evenings and work viewings a year, one in the Autumn term and one in the Lent Term. Full, written reports are issued at the end of the Autumn and Summer Terms, and a Grades Card at the end of the Lent Term. Should parents wish to discuss their child's progress during the Summer term, they can arrange an individual appointment with their child's class teacher. However, parents wishing to discuss their daughter's progress with staff at any stage of the year, are encouraged to make an appointment via the School Office.

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