

English

I am excited to share that our key text this half-term is Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, by J.K. Rowling. We will begin by exploring fictional writing through character descriptions. We will focus on using expanded noun phrases and relative clauses to describe characters in the book. We will also revisit the use of apostrophes for possession when writing about Professor Dumbledore, before moving the focus onto the famous Harry Potter himself!

We will then move on to writing a non-fiction explanation text on how to get to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The children will revisit sentence structure through writing subordinate clauses, including time adverbials. They will also be taught modal verbs and ways to organise ideas by using appropriate subheadings to finalise their own explanation texts.

Science

Year 4: Our key question for this half-term is 'What is the structure and function of the digestive system?' The children will explore parts of the human digestive system, including function of teeth, oesophagus, stomach and intestines, by using secondary sources. Additionally, they will conduct an observation over time to understand how we can keep our teeth strong and healthy.

Year 5: Our key question for this half-term is 'How do forces impact planets and moons?' The children will use their prior knowledge on contact and non-contact forces to understand how gravity affects the orbits of the Moon and Earth around the Sun.

Religious and Worldviews Education

We will continue our work around intermediaries but with more of a focus on Christianity. Building upon our knowledge of the Prophet Muhammad, we will look at why Mary was chosen to be Jesus' mother, who Jesus was, the role of the Holy Spirit and how each part of the Trinity works together within Christian belief. This will allow us to answer the question of how intermediaries guide us.

French

Year 4 will continue to use their speaking, listening, reading and writing. Phonics continues to be our main focus and the children will learn more about adjectives, how to apply them to create descriptions of shapes and different people.

Year 5 will begin by recapping our number learning (1-100). In addition, we will consolidate our learning about masculine, feminine, plural nouns and adjectives. We will continue our French phonics to explore time, food, verbs and dictionary skills.

Computing

Our work will focus on selection in physical computing as we learn how to use different inputs and outputs when using a Crumble controller, and then write algorithms to control these.

Fox Class Newsletter



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Additional information

Happy New Year 2026!

We hope you had a lovely Christmas break. Please don't forget that PE kits should be in school every day and the children should always bring a waterproof coat so they can still be outside when raining.

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact us via fox@trentyoungs.dsat.org.uk

Reading

Our guided reading book for this term is 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by JK Rowling. This links in well with our English writing units this half-term. Please try to purchase this book for your child to bring to school for our guided reading sessions.

Our class novel to read for pleasure is 'How to Train your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell.



History

Our big question is 'What was important to the Ancient Egyptians?' We will begin by revisiting a timeline to recognise ancient civilisations. We will then dig into Ancient Egypt, including why the River Nile was so helpful to them. We will also explore the significance of the Rosetta Stone. Finally, we will explore Egyptians' religions and beliefs and link this to mummification and the afterlife. Fox Class will also be going to Tutankhamun Exhibition, Dorchester, for a visit!

Maths

Year 4: Our first unit will focus on multiplication and division, specifically factor pairs and multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100 using place value knowledge. Secondly, we will move on to measurement, with a specific focus on length and perimeter, including kilometres, metres and finding the perimeter of shapes.

Year 5: Our first unit will focus on multiplication and division, specifically on using written methods for multiplying and dividing 4-digit numbers. A big emphasis will be made on using the long multiplication method to multiply 4-digit numbers by a 2-digit number. Afterwards, we will move onto fractions, with a focus on multiplying fractions by whole numbers as well as finding a fraction of an amount.

Art

We will be inspired by literature and illustrators to create our own drawings and sculpt clay models in order to tell a story.

Design Technology

We will be exploring how bridge designs and materials affect strength and stability through building a wooden truss bridge.

Physical Education

Our two units this half-term are Basketball and Gymnastics. In Basketball, the children will improve upon skills to dribble, pass and receive the ball as well as score into a hoop. In Gymnastics, the children will perform rolls, hops and balances on various apparatus as well as work as a team to create a sequence.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Children will learn about the impact of human rights and responsibilities, considering supporting their community. They will recognise influences, facts and opinions and how to make a difference in a situation.

Music

Year 4 will begin to have instrumental lessons (piano).

Year 5 will focus on composition and notation. They will learn how to create graphic scores and compose their own pieces of music.