Willowpark Primary Academy
Vulcan Street
Oldham
OL1 4LJ
Tel: 0161 369 5699
Principal- Mrs Louise Hayes

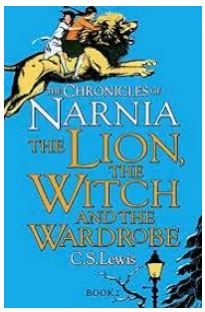
Year 4 Newsletter
Spring

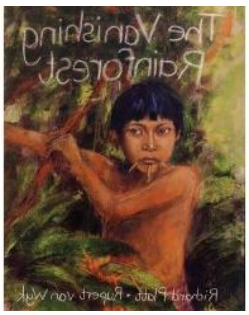
English

Reading remains a key priority for us. Children are expected to read at home every evening and have their reading diary signed. It is essential that reading books are brought into school every day so that staff can continue to read with your child, ensuring a strong partnership between home and school. Reading will be celebrated and rewarded, with additional incentives introduced throughout the term.

This term, we will be exploring a range of texts linked to our wider curriculum and completing writing tasks inspired by the books studied in class. Texts will be analysed in detail using the P.I.C.C. approach. We will continue to place a strong emphasis on the key non-negotiables for writing across the English curriculum. Pupils will be introduced to a wide range of new and engaging vocabulary and will be encouraged to apply it accurately and effectively in their writing.

Our focus texts this term include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Extraordinary Life of Greta Thunberg*, and *The Vanishing Rainforest*.





Math

This term, we will cover a wide range of mathematical topics following the White Rose scheme of work. As always, there will be a strong emphasis on arithmetic, times tables, and the secure learning and retention of key mathematical skills. Alongside developing fluency, children will regularly apply their knowledge through reasoning and problem-solving activities.

Pupils will take part in practical and engaging Maths lessons, with additional support provided through small-group work and one-to-one intervention where needed. Times tables will be a key focus throughout the term as we prepare for the Year 4 Multiplication Check in the Summer term. Children will be supported through regular practice, targeted interventions, and the use of online resources and classroom activities to build confidence and speed. Mastery of times tables is essential, as it underpins much of the mathematics curriculum and supports success across many areas of learning.

This term, we will be studying multiplication and division, length and perimeter, fractions, and decimals.

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Geography

This term in Geography, children will learn about weather, climate, and biomes, including the difference between weather and climate and how lines of latitude divide the Earth into different climate zones. They will explore what biomes are and identify biomes around the world.

Pupils will develop their map skills by studying hemispheres and comparing North and South America, with a focus on the physical and human features of South America and life in Brazil. They will study the Amazon River and rainforest, learning about biodiversity, the layers of the rainforest, and the importance of rainforests. The term will conclude with an exploration of deforestation and a comparison of North and South America.

Wider Curriculum

This term in Science, children will study Animals Including Humans**.** They will learn about the human digestive system and what happens to food as it moves through the body. Children will also learn about different types of teeth, their functions, and how to keep teeth healthy. Later in the term, they will explore the diets of animals, comparing herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. They will learn about food chains and how animals depend on each other for food. Practical activities and investigations will help children develop their scientific understanding throughout the unit.

In Art, our topic is tiled: The Fabric of Nature. Children will create drawings based on images and develop mood boards using colour and imagery. They will practise using a range of materials and tools to add colour confidently to their work. They will learn about the work of William Morris and Megan Carter, using subject vocabulary to describe their styles and ideas. They will design their own repeating patterns inspired by their drawings and research, learning how patterns repeat.

In RE, we follow an enquiry based approach. Children will focus on key questions and investigate. This term the children will learn about Muslim beliefs and practices, including belief in Allah and the importance of the Prophet Muhammad. Children will develop their understanding of the Five Pillars of Islam and how they guide Muslims in living a good life. They will use religious vocabulary to explain Islamic values and explore how these values are shared with other religions and worldviews.

The children will study French with Mrs Fletcher on a Monday. The children will continue to attend swimming lessons every Thursday as part of their PE programme, helping them to develop confidence, skills, and water safety awareness. PSHE will also be taught to ensure children are ready and equipped with the social and emotional skills to learn, feel safe and develop resilience. Our topics this term will be: Dreams and Goals.

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Homework

Reading books will be changed when necessary and they will be sent home every night. If children don't read at home they will be given chance to catch up with this during the school day, during unstructured times. Those children that are on Free Readers can change their book whenever they would like. In addition, children will have access to the whole school library once a week where they can choose an additional book of their choice. Children will also be set spelling homework weekly and encouraged to practice times tables.

PE kit

Swimming will be on Thursday and Dance will also be on a Thursday. For Swimming, children need – a swimming costume or swimming shorts, swimming cap (for long hair), they will need to bring their own towel. For Dance, children need – black t-shirt, black shorts, black pumps/trainers.

If you need any further information or want to know how your child is getting on in school, please do not hesitate to contact the office who will arrange a telephone conversation with myself.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Stafford