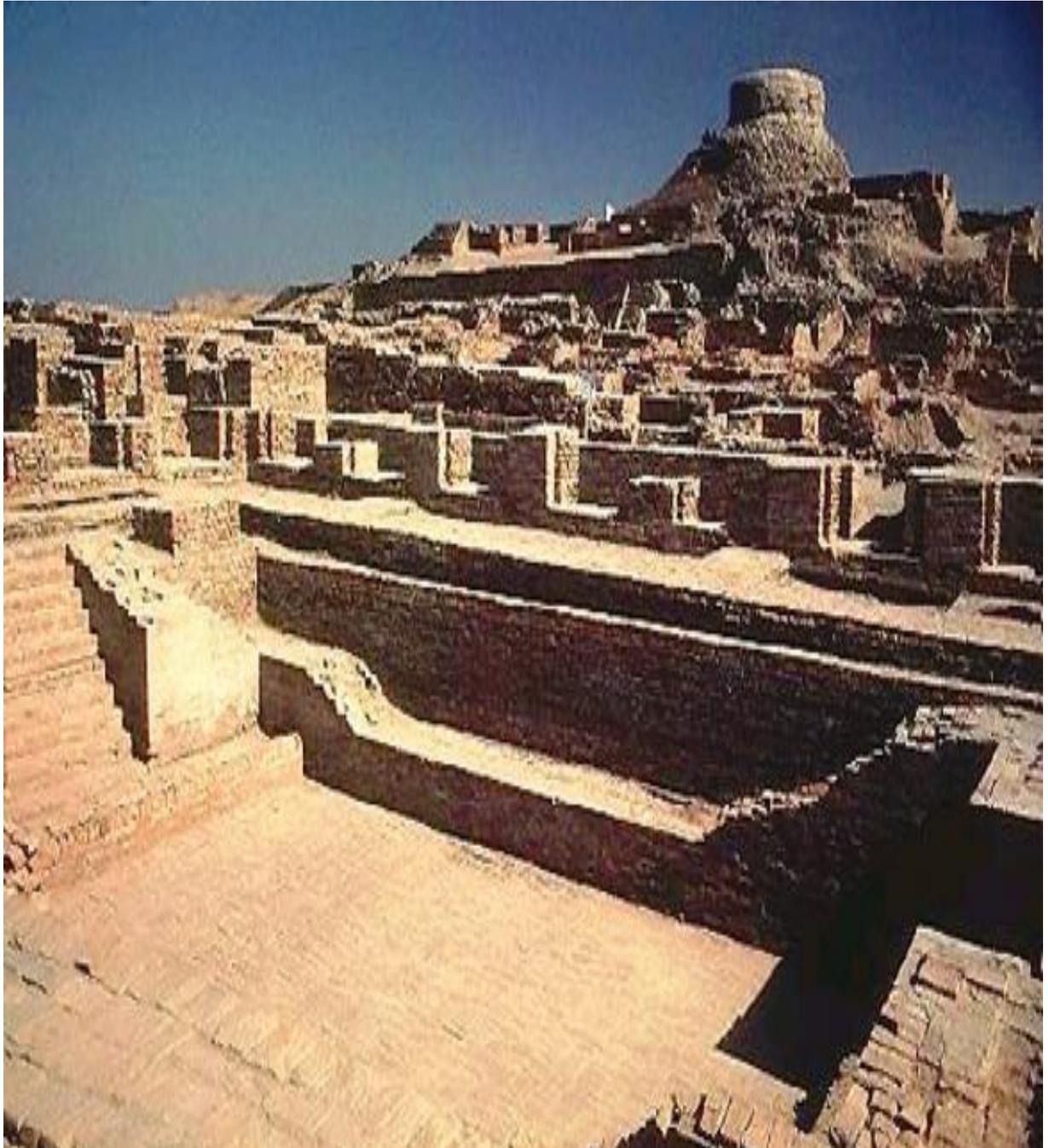


Year 4
Autumn 2017



Newsletter

English:

In the first half term our work will revolve around the book 'Tales Told In Tents: Stories from Central Asia'. Children will be retelling and rewriting stories from the book, in the role of characters in the story. They will also be writing a newspaper article, based on the story 'A Whole Brain'. In the second half term our work will revolve around the book 'The People who Hugged The Trees'. Children will be writing a persuasive text, linking to the story. For the remainder of the term, we will focus our learning on writing explanatory texts. Both books will allow children to make links with their humanities learning.

Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation

Throughout the year, we shall spend time looking at the different spelling rules and conventions and integrate these into our English work. In addition to this, the children will be issued, on a weekly basis, with a set of words to learn at home and their common spelling pattern. These words will be tested on the following Friday. The words included in our spelling tests come from the national curriculum statutory list of words for Years 3 & the 4 which are based on spelling patterns. These can be found in children's homework book. In addition to our English work, where we focus on the text structure of writing, we will also spend time developing our punctuation and grammar skills. This will be through a combination of separate grammar and punctuation lessons and activities integrated into our main English sessions. Grammar, spelling and punctuation end-of-year expectations are available on your child's Ladders at Home account.

Reading:

Reading is taught at school daily and pupils will get regular opportunities to read together in small groups and individually, as well as listening to the teacher read aloud. Our reading focus this term will be on inferring characters' feelings and thoughts based on what they say and do and justify with evidence as well as discussing the impact of language choices on the reader. Children are encouraged to borrow books from our class reading area and to read at home every day. Books borrowed from school can be changed when the children have finished the book. Children need to keep a record of books they are reading in their home school reading record.

Maths

This year children will continue to use Maths No Problem in order to consolidate their strategies for solving problems using place value. This will involve exploring numbers up to the value of ten thousand and counting on in thousands, hundreds, tens and ones. Pupils will also work on written methods of the four operations, introducing the idea of column addition, subtraction and multiplication up to the value of ten thousand. We will introduce the concept of remainders when looking at solving division problems with up to three digits. Children will be encouraged to develop their problem-solving skills, writing simple explanations to describe how they reached a solution and completing practical tasks involving real-life problems. Children in Y4 are provided with work which aims to increase confidence while developing their mathematical skills at an appropriate level. Pupils are encouraged to practise their times tables and continue to complete their Times Table Passports. We will be starting with the 6 and 7 times tables. Maths end-of-year expectations are available on your child's Ladder at Home account.

Humanities

Indus Valley and India

In humanities children will be learning all about the Indus Valley civilisation and India. They will be given opportunities to discover where in the world ancient civilisations settled and the importance of the people living within the settlements. Children will discover how the inhabitants of the Indus Valley lived and how their civilisation came to an end. They will also be given the opportunity to learn all about India and its culture. Both topics will provide many opportunities for class discussions and group work, as well as promoting independent learning.

Science

Electricity

In this topic children will learn through practical investigation how to identify appliances that run on electricity. Children will also construct simple electrical circuits, identifying and naming their basic parts. There will be a number of opportunities for children to explore the different properties of circuits and their effects, as well as recognising common conductors and insulators.

Sound

In this topic children will be identifying how sounds are made and associating them with vibrations, recognising how sound travels and identifying patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it.

These investigations will provide children with a number of scientific skills including planning, predicting and evaluating experiments.

Art and DT

Our Art and DT projects will link in with our humanities topics: The Indus Valley and India. Children will be exploring and developing ideas as well as evaluating and developing their projects through creating masks and tiles inspired by ancient civilisations and Indian culture. We will also be looking at developing the children's cooking skills by making chutney and our own chapitis.

Religious Education

Children will learn about Sikhism and Hinduism with a specific focus on the history and belief of Sikh Gurus and Hindu life.

French:

Children will be taught French by Ms Cole on a weekly basis.

Music:

The children will continue to be taught by Ms Portman on a weekly basis.

Homework

In line with the school's homework policy, children can expect to receive spellings each week. Please make sure that you read with your child as often as possible and complete their home school reading record. We have asked the children to ensure that they are reading for a minimum of 30 minutes each day. This can take the form of: book, newspapers, magazine or information from the internet. However, we would like the children to read aloud with an adult at home at least once a week.

Computing

This term children will learn to design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals including controlling or stimulating physical systems. Pupils will solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts. They will use sequence, selection and repetition in programs with variables and various forms of input and output. Pupils will use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs.

PE

This year Y4 will benefit from specialist coaching in PE. This term both classes will have a specialist Dance teacher to teach pupils how to develop a broader range of skills and link them to make actions and sequence movements. PE will take place every Tuesday.

Swimming

From Monday 11th September, all children in year 4 will be taking part in weekly swimming lessons as part of the P.E National Curriculum. The swimming lessons are timetabled for every Monday morning and will take place at the Waterfront Leisure Centre in Greenwich. The children will be taken there by coach. They will need to bring: a swimming costume/swimming shorts, a swimming hat, a towel and goggles.

PE kits

Please ensure that your child has **suitable** clothing. The school policy is navy or black shorts and a plain white or blue T-shirt with trainers or plimsolls. Tracksuit bottoms may be worn in cold weather. Jewellery should not be worn to school, with the exception of small stud earrings, which should be removed by the child for all PE lessons. Children should bring their PE kit in a **drawstring** bag on the first day of term.

Uniform

Pupils should wear a blue, yellow or white top (no motifs please!) and appropriate skirts, shorts or trousers. Please also remember that the only jewellery allowed is small stud earrings. Pupils with long hair need to come with their hair tied back.

Water

It is Sherington School policy to drink plenty of water throughout the day to aid concentration and learning. Your child should bring a plastic bottle to school as soon as possible which needs to be labelled and kept in the classroom.

Birthdays

In line with the school's healthy eating policy, please do not send in party bags, sweets, etc. when it is your child's birthday. You can, however, send in a cake for classmates, ready cut, with napkins or bags.