



BISHOP ROCK

Spring Term 2026



Welcome back to the new academic year which again promises to be action packed and full of exciting learning opportunities and challenges.

Our **St Just Curriculum** themes for this term are; '**Were the Vikings really brutal invaders?**' (Spring 1) and '**It's Electric**' (Spring 2)

Computing:

Following our whole-school computing scheme, our topics for this term are 'Repetition in shapes' and 'Data Logging'. Miss Trenoweth will teach computing on a Monday afternoon.

Science:

Our topic for Spring one is '**Materials: States of Matter**'. Children will learn to: compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C); identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Our topic for Spring two is '**Electricity**'. Children will learn: how and where electricity is generated and about its journey to our homes; identify common appliances that run on electricity; construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers; identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery; recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit; recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

English:

Following our curriculum themes, our text level learning will focus on a range of non-fiction and fiction genre. Our punctuation and grammar learning will focus on the year 3 & 4 spelling, punctuation and grammar objectives.

Spellings will be set weekly & linked to the years 3 & 4 spelling curriculum. These may also include vocabulary linked to our class topics. Please encourage your child to practise spellings at least three times a week at home. Children will also practise spelling strategies & rules every day in school.

Whole Class Reading will take place every day for 30 minutes This will involve all children reading and studying the same text to develop the three key areas: vocabulary, retrieval and inference. This term we will be reading '**How to Train Your Dragon**', '**Gangsta Granny**', plus a range of non-fiction texts linked to our history and science topics.

School / class library Your child may borrow up to two books from the school/class library at any one time. We encourage children to read both fiction and non-fiction.

Tree Readers will continue to be responsible for changing their own library books on a regular basis. **Bug Club scheme readers** will have their books changed for them as twice a week on Monday and Thursday.

Finally, please continue to keep up your excellent effort to listen to your child read regularly and ensure they bring their books to school every day.

History: Anglo-Saxons and Vikings (continued from Autumn term)

Pupils will continue to ask what made them similar and different, what types of people they were, what kinds of similarities and difference they had, why they had them and why they both chose to invade Britain. Pupils will establish how similar these two groups actually were, giving evidence for their reasoning. Pupils will also examine what each of their legacies were so they can determine whether they were really violent people, in terms of with each other and the wider world. Pupils will also learn about the impact that they had on Britain which will reinforce whether they were similar or different, whether they were simple brutes and whether their legacy is a fair one. Pupils will also see when they both existed in both their own native lands and in Britain, prompting discussions about whether their legacies have lasted a long time and whether this is impressive.

Music:

Music sessions will follow our Charanga scheme and be taught weekly. This term, the children will be learning about the interrelated dimensions of music through games, singing and composing.

Mathematics:

This term we will focus on the key areas of **Multiplication and Division, Length and Perimeter, Fractions and Decimals**. Developing fluency (rapid recall of key number facts) and counting will form the basis of our daily maths lessons. This will then lead us onto developing reasoning and problem-solving skills to be successful and confident mathematicians. The approach to learning we use in maths is referred to as the CPA approach (Concrete; pictorial; abstract.) Children can continue to use **Times Table Rock Stars** at home to practise their times tables and take part in the weekly challenges.

PE:

Core PE lessons will take place every **Monday** afternoon at Cape Sports Hall, while **Gymnastics** lessons will take place throughout the Spring term every **Wednesday** morning. Therefore, children should wear their **school PE Kit to school every Monday and Wednesday**.

Religious Education:

We will be using the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education teaching. In Spring one, we will learn about **Hinduism**: What does it mean to be Hindu in Britain today? In Spring two, we will learn about **Christianity**: Salvation - Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?

PSHE:

Our whole school theme for this term is British Values

- Freedom in Beliefs
- Governments and Rules

We will also be looking at Problem Solving and Resourcefulness.

Homework:

In accordance with government recommendations, year 4 homework should consist of **15 minutes daily** which includes reading time at home to an adult or older sibling and practising times tables.

At the beginning of each new topic, a **Homework Menu** will be sent home from which your child can choose two (or more) activities to complete throughout the term.

A list of spellings / rules to learn will be set weekly in your child's Spelling Record book. Please encourage your child to practice their spellings at least 3 times per week outside of school hours using activities from our Spelling Menu.

Geography:

In Spring one, we will be comparing Iceland to the UK while continuing to learn about Europe as a continent concentrating on its environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.

Classroom Support:

Mrs Harradine will support individual and small groups of children on their Individual Provisions daily as well as listen to and respond to children reading. She will also work to support all children within all lessons.

Teacher PPA time will be covered by Mrs Dowling and Mrs Denley on Wednesday afternoons weekly.

Mr Paul Matthews will continue to teach the class once a fortnight on a Thursday whilst I carry out my support role as TPAT Penwith PE subject lead working alongside other Penwith schools.

Thank you for your continued support
Mr Andrew Kevern (Class Teacher)
Mrs Natasha Dowling (Teaching Assistant)



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