

Year 4 — What We're Learning

Our theme for the first six weeks: Superfast Connections – Exchanging Ideas

This covers the first six weeks of the autumn term (2nd September – 9th October). During this time, Year 4 will be exploring **Superfast Connections – Exchanging Ideas** — discovering how the internet connects people across the world and building their own electrical circuit along the way. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Connected**.

Our CARE Curriculum

Superfast Connections is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. For Year 4, 'Connected' means understanding how the internet connects people and ideas across the world — both through its history, and through building a real working circuit.

Our School Value: BRAVE

We'll start by reading Little People, BIG DREAMS: Zaha Hadid as a class. Zaha, born in Baghdad, trained in London and built projects across the globe — from China to Azerbaijan to the USA — connecting cultures, cities and communities through her bold, boundary-pushing architecture. This links to our school value of being BRAVE, and to this unit's theme: just as the internet connects people across the world, Zaha Hadid's life and work connected different countries and cultures through architecture and technology.

Computing and History this half term

We're learning all about the internet and how it works:

- How computer networks connect devices and people to form the internet
- The history of the internet, and Tim Berners-Lee's invention of the World Wide Web
- How to evaluate whether what we find online is true and reliable
- What Artificial Intelligence (AI) is, and how it might change the way we work in future

At home, you could ask your child to explain the difference between 'the internet' and 'a website'.

Science and DT this half term

We're learning about electricity, building up to making our own night light:

- Common appliances that use electricity
- Building complete electrical circuits, and understanding switches
- Testing which materials are conductors and which are insulators
- Designing, wiring and evaluating our own working night light in DT

At home, you could go on a hunt for electrical appliances around the house and talk about how each one uses electricity.

Maths this half term

We're building strong number foundations across two areas:

- Weeks 1–3: Place Value within 10,000 — recognising thousands, hundreds, tens and ones, partitioning and comparing numbers up to 10,000, Roman numerals, and rounding
- Weeks 4–6: Addition and Subtraction — adding and subtracting 1s, 10s, 100s and 1,000s, and adding and subtracting two 4-digit numbers

At home, you could look for Roman numerals on clocks or in old films and see if your child can work out what they mean.

Music this half term: through Oak National's 'Start with playing: adding layers to major and minor songs' unit.

Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "What's the difference between the internet and the World Wide Web?"
- Ask: "How can you tell if something you read online might not be true?"
- Ask: "What's a conductor, and what's an insulator? Can you find an example of each at home?"
- Ask: "What do you think made Zaha Hadid brave?"
- Try together: draw a simple circuit diagram for a torch or lamp at home.

Words you might hear at home

internet, World Wide Web, network, server, email, combine, evaluate, investigate, predict

A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers healthy friendships, peer influence, community, protected characteristics and diversity. It's delivered through Pol-Ed, a PSHE programme run in partnership with Northumbria Police and fully aligned to statutory RSHE guidance, taught sensitively and appropriately for Year 4. [Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

Enrichment

- A 'circuit trail' — finding hidden battery-powered objects around school using a working circuit as a detector
- A visit from a parent/carer who works in AI, linked to our History 'Where Next?' Lesson- **please contact school if you could support us with this**
- A visit or talk from the school's IT support provider, linked to our Computing networks learning

Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

Keep in touch

This overview covers the first six weeks of the term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

Thank you for your continued support.



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