

Year 4 — What We're Learning

Our theme for the second half term: Keeping the Peace: Rules and Rights

This covers the second half of the autumn term (12th October – 27th November, with half term from 26th–30th October, and an INSET day on Monday 2nd November when school is closed to children). During this time, Year 4 will be exploring **Keeping the Peace: Rules and Rights** — exploring how societies make and keep rules, choose their leaders and protect people's rights, from the origins of British democracy and the Gunpowder Plot to being a Rights Respecting School today. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Awareness**.

Our CARE Curriculum

Keeping the Peace 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, 'Awareness' means understanding how rules, rights and democracy keep communities fair and peaceful — and the part each of us plays as citizens.

Our School Value: RESILIENT

We'll start by reading *Little People, BIG DREAMS: Andy Warhol* as a class. Andy grew up in a family without much money and was often ill as a child, but he kept on drawing, moved to New York and became one of the most famous artists in the world. This links to our school value of being RESILIENT, and to this unit's theme: just as Andy kept going and found his own voice, understanding rules, rights and democracy helps every one of us have a voice and keep working towards a fairer, more peaceful world.

History, Citizenship and Science this half term

We're learning about democracy, rules and rights, and about living things and their habitats:

- What democracy is, where it began, and what makes a good leader, including local leader Earl Grey
- Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, and how democratic and non-democratic countries compare
- Democracy in action — writing manifestos, giving campaign speeches and voting in our own Diversity Council ballot
- Grouping living things using classification keys, and comparing habitats around the world

At home, you could talk about Bonfire Night and why we still remember the Gunpowder Plot.

Maths this half term

We're finishing addition and subtraction, then moving on to area and times tables:

- Addition and Subtraction — 4-digit numbers, including exchanging
- Area — finding and comparing the area of shapes by counting squares
- Multiplication and Division — the 3, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables

At home, you could practise times tables little and often, ready for the Multiplication Tables Check in the summer.

English this half term

Writing letters to inform, inspired by *Until I Met Dudley* by Roger McGough, then persuasive writing based on *The Perfect Pet* by Margie Palatini.

Music this half term

The Doot Doot Song — singing with a secure pulse and rhythm — then building and performing layered body percussion patterns together.

RE this half term

Christianity — why is light an important symbol at Christmas? Exploring the Christmas story, Advent, and how Christians and people of other faiths celebrate light and hope.

Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "What makes a good leader?"
- Ask: "Why do we still remember Guy Fawkes on Bonfire Night?"
- Ask: "Is democracy just about voting?"
- Ask: "What do you think made Andy Warhol resilient?"
- Try together: create a family 'charter' of rights and responsibilities for your home!

Words you might hear at home

democracy, rights, parliament, justice, responsibility, authority, protected characteristic, habitat, classification

A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers what protected characteristics are, what a hate crime is and why it is wrong, respecting our environment, staying safe in online relationships, and living our rights and responsibilities as a Rights Respecting School. 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

- Our live Diversity Council ballot — Thursday 19th November, when the children vote for their Diversity Council representatives
- A Rights Respecting School playground charter, created by the children (Week 6)

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 second half of the autumn 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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