



**Mr Alex
Baker**



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Introduction

Our learners have had a fantastic start to Year 4. They have enjoyed seeing old friends after a long break and welcoming new ones into the Nexus community. Both Year 4 classes have settled in very well and have carefully considered how they would like the classroom to operate. Working together, each class has composed and signed an Essential Agreement.

If you have any comment or queries, please feel free to come and see us at anytime.

Unit of Inquiry

The first Unit of Inquiry for Year 4 was called 'Brainwave'. This unit is separated into two parts, the second of which will be completed at the end of the academic year. Brainwave focused on the following lines of inquiry:

- Different ways in which people learn.
- How we can help ourselves learn better.
- How diet, health and exercise help the brain work.

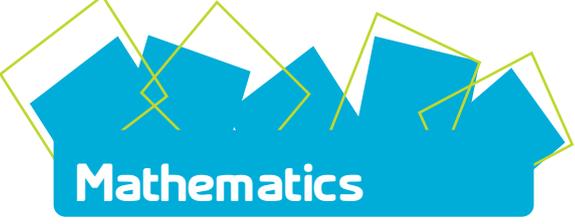
In this initial stage of our inquiry learners were asked to consider their own learning strengths and styles. Guest speakers joined the class to discuss their learning styles and how they have helped themselves learn better. Year 4 also went looking for learning in the school. They visited various classrooms throughout the primary and secondary school to compare the different environments and types of learning that were taking place. They also worked very hard to prepare their assembly, a

forum to share this learning with the rest of the Primary School.
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English

In English, the classes have been thinking about the types of words that good writers use. They have also been busy considering how a carefully chosen word can conjure a visualisation in the mind of a reader. After listening to sections from Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, the learners have been creating and discussing the pictures and images that they imagined from Dahl's words.



Mathematics

Year 4 learners started the term by looking at numbers to ten thousand. They have been focussing on recognising, representing (in numerals and words) and ordering larger numbers. They have completed individual mathematics activities and worked with partners and small groups. Year 4 learners have also been introduced to the online Mathletics site; please encourage them to regularly use this online resource at home.





Music

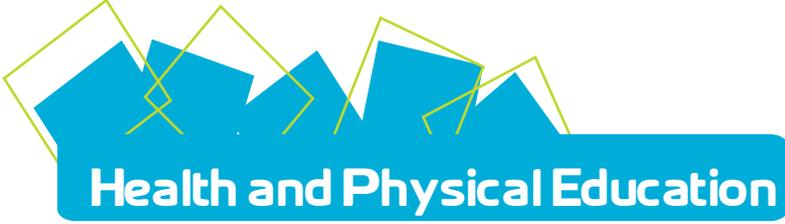
Year 4 learners have been exploring the tuned percussion instruments. They have learned the musical alphabet and have used it to create 'word tunes' on the xylophones, metallophones and glockenspiels. They have also learned clapping songs and action songs.



Languages other than English

Chinese - Year 4 learners new to Chinese have been introduced to numbers, key greetings and introducing themselves. Those learners with some experience of learning Chinese did short presentations about themselves and their family members. Learners who have the most experience in Chinese, have been given opportunities to work on independent reading and writing tasks to develop their skills.

French – The learners started with some personalised teaching through a project that focussed on introducing football in France. Key vocabulary was introduced and iMovies were created. The learners picked a French team that they will follow through the year and made a poster supporting their chosen team. They also learnt how to construct sentences through a collage exercise, using nouns, verbs and adjectives to describe colour and size.



Health and Physical Education

The Year 4 learners have been learning water confidence activities such as holding their breath, floating and underwater swimming. For safe water entry, slide-in entry has been practised. Similarly, pool safety and familiarisation has been covered. Learners have been exploring the water depth from 1.1M to 2.0M deep and are starting to learn or enhance their front crawl technique.

We have been impressed by the enthusiasm shown by our Year 4 children during Physical and Health Education sessions. The smiles on faces, desire to succeed and the cooperation and teamwork demonstrated has been a pleasure to witness. We have begun the year with a variety of team building and cooperative games to establish relationships between the children. To be able to adapt and work with a whole range of individuals is no easy task, and we commend the positive attitude shown to make this happen.



Year 4 have been looking at graffiti as a form of art that communicates and expresses feelings. They have looked specifically at the artist Keith Haring and his way of using lines and simple shapes to express himself. Please send in an apron or an old t-shirt to prevent pastel and paint on uniforms.



- Field Trip to Port of Lost Wonder - Tuesday, 3 September. Please remember to send your 'pirate' to school with sunscreen and a snack (in a disposable bag or container please).
- Please feel free to pack a change of shirt for your child with day. They may wish to change shirts after a very sweaty game of football at lunch.
- Please make sure all clothes, water bottles and snack and lunch containers are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.
- Specialist lessons are outlined for each class below.

Timetable for 4G	
Tuesday	Land PE
Thursday	Swimming
Wednesday	Land PE (every other week)
Friday	Library

Timetable for 4B	
Tuesday	Swimming
Wednesday	Land PE (every other week)
Thursday	Land PE
Friday	Library

