ENGLISH
In this unit, students read a narrative and examine and analyse the language features and techniques used by the author. For assessment the students will write a new chapter for the Twits. Students also investigate how illustrators use the language in the book to create appropriate illustrations to match the story. Children will then create an illustration to match their new chapter.

In Spelling, students will be streamed to assist in each child’s development. This means your child may go to another year four teacher for spelling – to assist with their individual learning needs.

Each classroom will also conduct groups to enhance every child’s ability to read, comprehend and deconstruct a variety of texts.

Handwriting will be a major focus of Term 1 as students perfect their cursive writing fluency.

Vocabulary building lessons in STRIVE will introduce and explain new words encountered in class.

MATHEMATICS
The first few weeks of this term are a revision of Year 3 maths, in particular, understanding number and place value. Students will be involved in activities such as ordering and comparing numbers, representing numbers in different ways and understanding their value.

A study of the properties of odd and even numbers will be assessed formally, exploring their answers when used in calculations.

There will be a concentration on addition and subtraction number facts and sums/algorithms, leading to problem solving activities. Quick and accurate recall of basic and extended facts is expected.

The students will also solve “real life” problems involving money. They will calculate change to the nearest five cents.

Linking with Geography, students will explore maps and plans. Lessons using simple maps, using cardinal compass points, investigating scale, using mathematical language to find locations and describe pathways will lead to formal assessment.

Assessment is spread across a number of work samples, teacher observations and several formal assessment tasks.

Year 4 Newsletter: Term 1
Welcome back from the summer holidays - we hope you are all refreshed. Term 1 is extremely exciting and busy in Year 4. Students will be getting to know their new teachers and classmates, along with new routines and curriculum. The Year 4 teachers are also refreshed and prepared for the exciting year ahead.

For your diary: Meet the Teacher afternoon:
20 February (Thursday)
(In your child’s classroom)
SCIENCE
This term, students will undertake a unit of study called ‘Ready, Set, Grow!’ Students will investigate the life cycles of plants and animals, exploring their similarities and differences. As usual, the Science specialist teachers will conduct lessons each week and a further lesson with the class teacher will complete the 2 hours of Science per week required.

HISTORY
In this unit students will be investigating European exploration and the movement of peoples. The following questions guide the unit:
- Why did the great journeys of exploration occur?
- Why did the Europeans settle in Australia?
Students will sequence historical events and people in chronological order. They will pose questions about the past and locate information in a range of sources to answer those questions. Students will communicate their learning in written narratives, in timelines, in tables and other graphic organisers. The focus will be on the arrival of the First Fleet.

TECHNOLOGY AND ART
Art and technology will be integrated with other curriculum areas this semester. For example, the students will be applying artist techniques and technological processes to design and create a Name Poster to display in the room.

GEOGRAPHY
In this unit, students will be exploring environments and places with a focus on Africa and South America. Students investigate the types of natural vegetation and native animals on both these continents. Students learn to identify and describe the relative location of places at a national scale and to complete maps using cartographic conventions. The interconnections between people and environment are examined by exploring the importance of environments to animals and people and how places are characterised by their environments. Students will identify and compare the characteristics of places, including the types of natural vegetation and native animals. Students will interpret geographical information and data to identify different views on how the environments should be protected, and form conclusions. Students will investigate the inquiry question/s identified from the Australian Curriculum: Geography: • How does the environment support the lives of people and other living things?

HOMEWORK
Homework will commence when passwords are available and children are familiar with homework routines. It will be set for the equivalent of 3 nights per week to allow for students’ extra curricular activities. Spelling, number facts and reading will be included. Our school has subscribed to Mathletics and Reading Eggs, which can be used for revision and challenge. Most work will be written neatly in homework books, sent home on Mondays, to be returned, completed on Fridays. We anticipate your support with homework, a life skill in self-discipline and self-regulation and importantly practice of skill learned in class.

CONTACT
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