Birchfield PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 4 Curriculum Overview
Term 3.1

Enquiry Question	How did life change for people living in Ancient Civilisations?
Significant People	- J.K Rowling - Ahmed Mustafa - Anousha Ansari
Class Texts	Secrets of a Sun King 'London, 1922. A discovery from ancient Egypt. A cursed package… The untold story of a young pharaoh. When Lilian Kaye finds a parcel on her grandad's doorstep, she is shocked to see who sent it: a famous Egyptologist, found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England. The mysterious package holds the key to a story… about a king whose tomb archaeologists are desperately hunting for. Now Lil and her friends must embark on an incredible journey – to return the package to its resting place, to protect those they love and to break the deadly pharaoh's curse.
Reading	During this half term, the children will be consolidating their learning on 'retrieval' and 'literal comprehension.' As they covered this domain back in the autumn term, they shall now be looking to answer much more advanced questions, justifying their answers with evidence from the text. Similarly, the children will also consolidate their previous learning on 'inference.' They shall be inferring how the characters in our new class text are feeling, presenting their ideas in a P.E.E format.
Writing	The children will begin this half term by learning how to write persuasive formal letters. The first letter shall be from the children to Mrs Thewlis, with the following letters being linked to their class text. In doing this, the children will learn how to write formally, structuring their work in the style of a letter. They shall also be learning how to write using persuasive techniques such as:

	rhetorical questions, repetition, facts and statistics and emotive language. As the half term continues, the children will then learn how to write diary entries. These shall be linked to our enquiry question and shall teach the children how to write informally, in the first person. They shall also teach the children how to write in a chatty style, speaking to the diary as if it was a friend/family member.
Maths	This half term, our focus will begin with decimals. To begin with, children will be recapping their number bonds to 100. They will then move onto learning how to make a whole from any of the tenths and hundredths using their number bonds to 10 and 100. Following this, children will move onto learning how to write decimal through the support of place value counters, as this will help them understand the value of each digit. They will also be learning how to compare, order and round decimals. Following their learning from fractions from the previous term, the children will be taught how to write ½ , ¼ and ¾ as decimals. The children will then move onto developing their understanding of pounds and pence using decimal notations and then onto converting between different units of money. They will continue learning about money and how to order, estimate and round money. They will also be learning how to use the four operations to solve money problems. Progressing towards the end of the half term, children will move onto learning about time, this incudes children recapping their learning of how to tell the time in 24-hour clock as well as, converting time into different units for example minutes into hours. The children will be using their previous knowledge about the concept of a year, month week and day, to convert between different units of time. To end the term, children will learn how to convert between analogue times and digital times, using a 24 hour clock.
History	This half term, our focus will be History. In the Ancient Civilisations project, your child will learn about three of the earliest civilisations

	in the world; ancient Sumer, ancient Egypt and the Indus Valley civilisation. They will study the ancient Sumerian and ancient Egyptian civilisation in detail, to discover how crucial factors like water sources and farming helped them to develop and thrive. They will find out about important inventions and the growth of cities. They will also study the lives of different people in society, including the roles of kings and pharaohs.
Science	Our Science topic this half term shall be 'Electrical Circuits and Conductors.' Within this project, your child will learn about the importance of electricity to our daily lives and the two sources, mains electricity and cells/batteries. They will discuss the dangers of mains electricity and safety measures and will learn about a range of electrical components such as, cells, batteries, wires, lamps, buzzers and motors. These devices will then be used to construct series circuits, exploring the effect of adding and removing different elements.
Art	Our art focus this half term will be 'Islamic Art.' This project teaches the children about the features of Islamic art. They will make geometric patterns and motifs on paper, with fabric and in clay. They will also use their learning to create a high relief clay tile, decorated with geometric patterns.
Music	During their music lessons, the children will continue to be taught by Miss Callaghan how to use and play keyboards following groups of notes.
Computing	The computing lessons this half term will focus on data logging. The children will consider how and why data is collected over time and understand how computers can monitor the environment over time. The children will collect and access data, captured over long periods of time. The children will use a device to review and analyse data as well as pose questions and use data loggers to answer the questions.
PSHE	In PSHE, we will be looking at 'Living in the wider world'. This focuses on how people have a shared responsibility to help

	protect the world around them, e.g., caring for others, animals, and the environment.
RE	In RE, we will be focusing on the unit of 'Living by the Rules', this unit focuses on the religious teachings of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The children will learn why following rules is so important and the different ways the followers live by rules.
PE	In the first half of the summer term the children will be learning how to play tennis. They will develop skills such as ready position, racket control and forehand and backhand ground strokes. They will learn how to score points and how to use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition.

Teaching Team:
Miss Begum, Miss Ellis, Miss Rehman
SLT: Mr Aldred

PE Days: Thursday

Homework: Tuesday & Friday

Please see below an overview of the main themes, knowledge and skills we will be covering this half term.

Secrets of a Sun King

Year 4 Knowledge Organiser

Birchfield PRIMARY SCHOOL

A girl from London becomes an unlikely heroine in a quest to break an ancient curse that threatens her family. Her quest takes her to Egypt. She forms good friendships along the way and solves mysteries about her life and the life of the young pharaoh, Tutankhamun, who lived 3000 years ago.

Author

Emma Carroll was born on 26th March 1970. She lives in Somerset with her husband and two Jack Russell terriers. She used to write stories as a child about ponies and pop stars.

Later she became a secondary school English teacher then left teaching to become a full-time writer.

Historical Context

In 1922, people in Britain were dealing with the aftermath of the First World War such as losing loved ones, high unemployment and inequality. Poor people could not afford medical care and only 40% of women could vote. Howard Carter was a British archaeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb shortly after Egypt gained independence from the British Empire.

Settings	
London 1922 	Lil lives in a flat in London. There are toilets, coal bunkers and mangles in the back yards. People have few clothes and little food.
Cairo 	*"I could smell Cairo: warm, dusty, animal dung, old apples."* Egypt is a feast for the senses with exotic sights, such as camels and mosques, the constant sound of mosquitoes and the scent of fig trees.
Valley of the Kings 	The valley is silent with an unsettling atmosphere. It has a winding road along the bottom with sheer rock faces and huge boulders on both sides. The tombs of ancient pharaohs were built there.

	Characters
Lil	Lil is a working-class girl who has won a scholarship to a girls' school where she has difficulty making new friends. She worries about her grandad and will do anything to help him!
Grandad	Grandad is a mysterious character who has secrets and regrets. He has a rarities and antiques shop and is a collector so his house is always messy. Lil and her Grandad are very close and share a love for ancient Egypt.
Tulip	Tulip is an adventurous, friendly girl who Lil meets at the British Museum. She comes from a wealthy family and shares Lil's interest in ancient Egypt. Tulip can be bossy and resourceful when putting a plan into action. She can also be brave and kind.
Lysandra	Lysandra is a scribe who lives in Egypt in 1323 BC. Her job is to write an account of everything that happens in the palace. She is friends with the young Tutankhamun and can interpret dreams.

Themes

- Equality
- Putting right old wrongs
- Secrets
- Friendship
- Respect

Secrets of a Sun King

Year 4 Knowledge Organiser

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Language

The novel is written in the first person. This allows the reader to know the main character's thoughts and feelings such as: *'a strange, shivery feeling came over me. I didn't want to go any further.'*

The reader lives the story with the main character. We find out things when she does and have similar reactions.

Lil often asks herself a series of questions such as *'was the parcel moving? What was that rustling sound? Was the package unwrapping itself?'* These create a sense of urgency and add to the mystery as the reader does not know the answers either.

Structure

The novel tells the story of Lil in 1922 but also tells the story of Kyky in 1323 BC.

The ancient Egyptian story is told through a series of letters that Lil finds and reads.

The author gives information about the customs and practices of ancient Egypt in these letters to help the reader visualise and understand the events that happened there.

Key Terms	
First Person	A text in the first person is written from the main character's point of view. For example, *"I rubbed my eyes like I was waking up from a dream."*
Heroine	The heroine of a book is the main female character who usually has many good qualities.
Historical Fiction	Historical Fiction stories take place at a real time in the past but the events might not have really happened. Though Lil's story takes place just after the First World War, the events are fictional.
Quest	A quest is an adventurous journey with obstacles that the characters must face. The main character usually leaves home to find an object, place or person.

A Timeline of Key Events.

Chapter 1:
Lil's grandad is taken to hospital with a mysterious illness. She finds a parcel on his doorstep which was sent by a man who had died earlier that day in peculiar circumstances.

Chapter 4:
Lil finds out about a curse and a quest she must go on to save Grandad's life.

Chapter 5:
Lil reads a letter from Egypt that was written over 3000 years ago. It tells the story of the boy pharaoh, Tutankhamun and his friends.

Chapter 13:
Lil discovers the rest of Kyky's story.

Chapter 23:
Back at home, another secret is uncovered!

Ancient Civilisations.

A civilisation is a developed society. Civilisations share common features, including cities, inventions, language, writing, hierarchy, leadership, infrastructure, arts and culture, trade and religion. Ancient civilisations first appeared over 6000 years ago in, or near, a semi-circular area of land in the Middle East known as the Fertile Crescent. The climate, availability of water and variety of plants in the Fertile Crescent meant that nomadic hunter-gatherers could settle in one place and begin to farm for the first time.

Ancient Sumer

Ancient Sumer was the very first civilisation. It originated between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in modern Iraq. Being near a river was important for early civilisations, providing water for drinking and fertile soil for agriculture. The ancient Sumerian civilisation began c4500 BC and lasted for around 2600 years.

Cities

After nomadic people settled down as farmers instead of hunter-gatherers, small villages grew into cities. Public buildings and temples were built, surrounded by a protective wall. Cities, such as Uruk and Ur, had ports on the river for trade and canals for irrigation. The ancient Sumerians used mud bricks to build homes and huge ziggurats.

Rulers

A series of city states grew up in ancient Sumer. The city states were often at war with each other. A king or queen ruled each city and lived in a palace. King Lugalzaggisi united the city states of ancient Sumer under one ruler, but then King Sargon, of the neighbouring kingdom of Akkad, conquered ancient Sumer. He forced everybody to speak the same language and crushed rebellions. Sumer became part of the Akkadian empire.

Inventions

The ancient Sumerians invented many things to make work easier and life more comfortable. They developed a type of writing, called cuneiform, and a numbering system to communicate and keep records. The ancient Sumerians also invented the wheel, the plough, astronomy, irrigation and beer.

Glossary

civilisation	The developed culture and way of life of a society.
Fertile Crescent	The semi-circular area of land where the first ancient civilisations began.
irrigation	The digging of channels to allow water to flow through a field to water crops.
nomadic	A lifestyle involving moving from place to place.
ziggurat	A large pyramid made from mud bricks, with a temple on top

Food and Farming

Food and farming The ancient Sumerians grew their food in the fertile soil next to the rivers. Plenty of food meant that the population grew and there were crops to trade. The plough made farming easier and allowed people time to develop new skills

Ancient Egypt

The ancient Egyptian civilisation began on the banks of the Nile, in the Fertile Crescent. Egypt was initially split into Upper Egypt in the south and Lower Egypt in the north. It became one kingdom c3150 BC. The civilisation lasted for around 2970 years.

Cities

The ancient Egyptians built cities on the fertile banks of the Nile, with easy access to water for crops and drinking. Most cities had a surrounding wall and two entrances. A main road ran through the centre of the city. Smaller, narrower streets connected to the main road. People lived in mudbrick houses, which were often two storeys high, with an open courtyard.

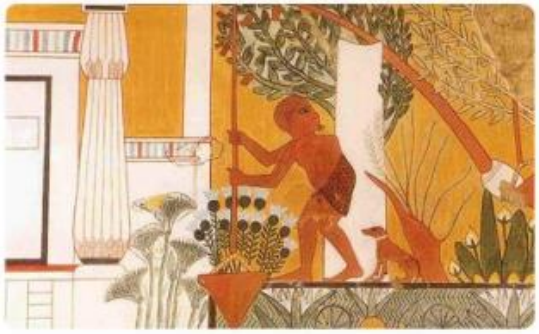
Rulers

Pharaohs ruled over ancient Egypt with absolute power. The ancient Egyptians believed that the pharaoh was the earthly representative of the gods. The most well known pharaoh is Tutankhamun. His tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings by Howard Carter in 1922. The vast number of priceless artefacts found buried with the pharaoh provided a lot of information about life in ancient Egypt

Inventions

The ancient Egyptians improved earlier innovations and invented many useful items to make life easier. They created clocks and calendars for telling the time. They made paper from the papyrus plants to record information. To help move water for their crops, they invented a shaduf, which used a lever mechanism to move a heavy bucket of water from a low to higher level

Food and farming



The ancient Egyptians grew crops in the fertile soil next to the Nile. The most important crops were wheat and barley, which they used to make bread, porridge and beer. They also grew vegetables, fruits and flax to make into linen. Agriculture was essential to the ancient Egyptian economy. It provided food for the people, with enough left over to store for years of drought.

Electricity: Electrical Circuits and Conductors

Electricity is a form of energy used to power many everyday items, such as kettles and mobile phones. It is essential to our daily lives. Lighting buildings, watching television, using computers, cooking meals and keeping in touch with family and friends all rely on electricity.

Glossary

electricity	The flow of an electric current through a material, e.g. from a power source through wires to an appliance.
appliances	A piece of equipment or a device designed to perform a particular job, such as a washing machine or mobile phone.
battery	A device that stores electrical energy as a chemical.
circuit	A pathway that electricity can flow around. It is based around wires and a power supply. Examples of components (parts) you can add in to a circuit are bulbs, switches, buzzers and motors.
mains electricity	Electricity supplied through wires to a building.
electrical conductor	A conductor of electricity is a material that will allow electricity to flow through it.
electrical insulator	Materials that are electrical insulators do not allow electricity to flow through them.
resistance	The ability of a conductor to oppose the flow of electric current

Sources of Electricity

Electricity comes from two sources, mains electricity and cells. Mains electricity is used when we turn on a light switch or plug an electrical appliance into a socket. Cells contain chemicals that create electrical energy. They are usually used to power small, portable devices, such as torches. A battery is made of two or more cells.

Power stations generate most of the mains electricity we use. Electricity travels through overhead and underground wires, known as power lines, to buildings, including homes, shops, offices and factories.

mains electricity

cell

battery

Power Station

Components

All electrical items are made up of components, which make them work.

Cell

Normally, we would call this a battery but scientifically, this is a cell. Two or more cells joined together form a battery.

Bulb

Lights up in a complete circuit.

Buzzer

Makes a noise in a complete circuit.

Wires

Used to connect the different components in the circuit together.

Motor

Produces movement in a complete circuit.

Switch

Used to turn other components in the circuit on or off.

Components have different jobs. A cell and battery provide electrical power. A wire connects different components and conducts electric current. A lamp emits light. A switch makes or breaks a circuit. A buzzer makes a sound. A motor creates movement.

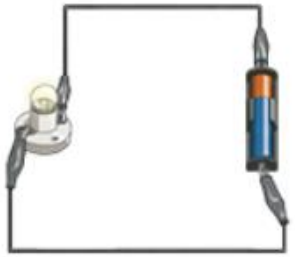
Circuits

Series Circuit

A circuit where the components are connected in a loop. Electricity flows through each component in a single pathway.

Complete Circuit

Electricity can flow. The components will work.



Incomplete Circuit

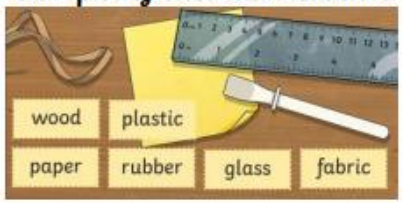
There is a break in the circuit that prevents the electricity from flowing. The components will not work.

Conductors & Insulators

Electrical conductivity is a measure of a material's ability to allow an electric current to pass through it. Materials that allow an electric current to pass through them are conductive. They are known as **electrical conductors** and have low resistance. Materials that do not allow an electric current to pass through them are non-conductive. They have high resistance. Many non-conductive materials, such as plastic, are used as electrical **insulators**.

Examples of electrical conductors

Examples of electrical insulators

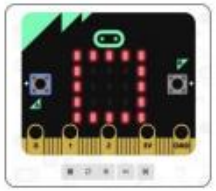


Programmable Technologies

Programmable technologies are devices that can operate automatically by following a set of instructions that have been programmed into them. Robotic vacuum cleaners, microwaves and washing machines are examples of programmable technologies. People input instructions into a device then the device performs tasks independently.

Micro:bit

A micro:bit is a small, programmable computer with an LED display, buttons and sensors. Micro:bits can be programmed to carry out a sequence of instructions.



Future of Electricity

At the moment, most mains electricity is made by burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, which pollute the environment. Fossil fuels are also running out, so alternative forms of renewable energy are needed. Renewable energy includes solar power, wind power and geothermal energy. People can also help to save electricity by turning off lights and appliances when not in use or using low energy, LED light bulbs

Glossary

LED	Light-emitting diode. A device that emits light when part of a complete circuit.
renewable	Something that can be used and then easily replaced.

Home Learning and Useful Links:

Homework Books

At the end of each week, your child will return home with their homework books in both English and Maths. They will be given two pages to complete based on the learning they have completed that week or the learning they will be doing the following week.

Please encourage your child to complete these to the best of their ability and return to school by Wednesday for them to be marked and any issues to be addressed.

Spellings

These are words your child will be using daily and will need to be familiar with. We will also be sending home words with your children that are key in Year 3 and 4. Please encourage your child to practise their spellings at the weekend and across the course of the week, as they will be tested on these at the end of each week.

Times tables

Each week, your child will receive a sheet of times tables to help prepare them for the Y4 Multiplication Check.

Please encourage your child to practise these times tables ready for a small test at the end of the following week.

Your child should be to completing at least 5 minutes of times table practice daily.

Please use the website below

Times Table Multiplication Check Website:

https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/

Reading:

At the end of each week, your child will also come home with a reading book.

Please encourage your child to read this book regularly and listen to them read when you can.

Within their reading diary, we ask that you please make a comment on how your child has read, whether they are enjoying their book or even any questions you may have asked them and discussed about their story.

Both the reading book and reading diary need to be returned to school by Wednesday.

Reading:

Oxford Owl for School and Home

Reading and comprehension - English - Learning with BBC Bitesize - BBC Bitesize

Books for Year 4 children aged 8-9 | School Reading List

Phonics:

Letters and Sounds, English Games for 5-7 Years - Topmarks

PhonicsPlay

Phase 2 Games – Letters and Sounds (letters-and-sounds.com)

Writing:

Year 4 English - BBC Bitesize

Writing in Year 4 (age 8–9) - Oxford Owl for Home

Spelling and Grammar, English Games for 7-11 Years - Topmarks

Maths:

Year 4 Maths Curriculum Toolkit | 8 & 9 Year Olds | Home Learning (thirdspacelearning.com)

Key Stage 2 Maths - Topmarks Search

https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/

Science:

Electricity - KS2 Science - BBC Bitesize

What is electricity? - BBC Bitesize

History/Geography:

Ancient Egypt - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize

History KS2: Introducing Ancient Sumer - BBC Teach

Computing:

Is my child safe online? Parent's questions answered | Barnardo's (barnardos.org.uk)

Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre

Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides | Internet Matters

PSHE:

Talk PANTS & Join Pantosaurus - The Underwear Rule | NSPCC

How to make an emergency 999 call – West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust (wmas.nhs.uk)

PE:

Nutrition Based Physical Activity Games - Action for Healthy Kids

Kids Active Learning & PE at Home – Think Active