

KIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 4 NEWSLETTER 2025



YEAR 4

February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you to the start of our new term and the beginning of the final half of the year.

Our Topic

Term 4: Ancient Egyptians

Children will learn about the Ancient Egyptians in our topic lessons. The children will explore who the Ancient Egyptians were, what they did, and discuss whether Ancient Egypt deserves its reputation as one of the most important early civilisations. They will learn about what made them so successful and how we know so much about that period of history. They will find out about how there is a reasonable amount of surviving evidence through structures such as pyramids, temples, artefacts as well as writing. The Egyptians had a system of writing called hieroglyphics.

In our science lessons, children will learn about the different types of animals that there are e.g. vertebrates and invertebrates. They will further develop the understanding of keys they gained in the Year 3 rocks module and use them to identify animals from a range of habitats. They will also construct classification keys and learn to ask yes/no questions about characteristic differences between the animals.

Maths and English

In maths lessons, children will be learning about: the four basic operations, bar charts, fractions and area. In order to support your child, you could talk to your child about the maths they are learning, identifying bar charts in the real world and what data they present, see where fractions are used outside of school and measure the lengths and widths of rooms at home to compare the area of each. Who really does have the biggest bedroom? It would really support your child if they were confident with their times tables. This would help them in all areas of maths. This term your child needs to learn up to the 7x table.

x2 x10 x5 x4 x3 x8 x6 x9 x7 x11 x12 p1

In English, we will be learning about: explanation texts, diaries, newspapers and stories.

In order to support your child, you could look at explanation texts and what is similar about each of them, look at stories and how the authors develop settings and characters. You could also look at newspaper reports and identify common features that appear in nearly every single one.

The spellings that your child will be learning this term can be accessed through our school website; it would be really useful if you could help your child to learn these spellings.

Please encourage your child to read at home every day and ask them questions about what they are reading at every opportunity. We aim to change books regularly. Your child should bring a water bottle to school. Please ensure the bottle is clearly named and only contains water.

PE

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit in school every day. For outdoor games, the children need plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt, a plain sweatshirt and trainers. For indoor PE, the children need plain black/navy shorts and a plain white t-shirt. Every item needs to be clearly labelled and in a bag that will remain in school every day. Kits will be taken home to be washed at the end of each term. No items should be taken home during the term. Children who attend sporting clubs should bring extra kit so their PE kit can stay in school.

Homework

Homework is set on a Thursday and will continue to support your child's education. It will include weekly maths and English activities as well as reading, some spelling investigations and multiplication facts. If there are ever any problems about the homework, please come and see us as soon as possible.

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HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING THIS TERM:

Key things that parents can do to support their child this term related to things they will be learning about:

- Suggesting your child reads newspapers
- Keeping a diary
- Identifying where fractions are used in real life
- Finding out which is the biggest room in your home by finding the area (length x width)
- Trying some of the activities below. Photos or videos of these would be worth MANY house points! Bringing them into show the teachers would be even better!
- Writing your name in hieroglyphics or writing a 'secret' message to someone who also knows the 'code' (you could give a person this sheet so that they could translate your special message!)
- Playing Senet (instructions attached)

Important dates:

24.02.25 – First day of Term 4
04.03.25-06.03.25 – Book Fair
06.03.25 – World Book Day
17.03.25 – Y4 Egyptian Day
21.03.25 – Comic Relief Day
04.04.25 – Last day of Term 4
22.04.25 – First day of Term 5

Yours Sincerely

Mr Batterham, Ms Phillips and Mr Saw
Year 4 Class Teachers

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Make your own Canopic Jars

In Ancient Egypt, people believed that everyone had three different spirits: the *ka* (the life force), the *ba* (the personality) and the *akh* (the soul). In order for these three spirits to survive into the afterlife, the Ancient Egyptians believed that the dead body must be preserved. Embalming and mummification were the Egyptians' answer to this problem!

When a person was mummified, their lungs, liver, intestines and stomach were put in special containers called Canopic jars. Each organ was protected by a different Ancient Egyptian god. Make your own Canopic jars with this fun activity!

Ages: Suitable for all ages.

Time Required: 1 hour

Materials Required



- four empty plastic jars
- white cardboard or heavy paper
- sticky tape
- scissors
- colouring pens
- pencil
- ruler
- black marker pen
- orange
- used teabag
- dried pasta ribbons or spaghetti
- pink balloon



1. The internal organs in each of your Canopic jars will be protected by an Ancient Egyptian god. Copy the examples onto your sheets of cardboard – or look on the internet for more inspiration! Your gods will need to be drawn on top of a strip of cardboard that will wrap around the jars.

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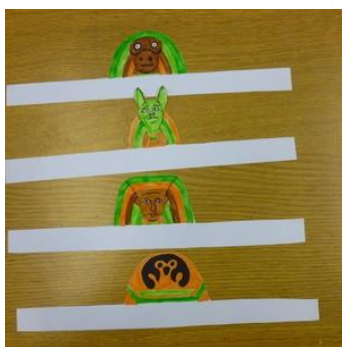
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2. Colour in each of your pictures.



3. Cut out each of your god pictures and the strips of cardboard that they are attached to.



4. Time to make your internal organs! Use your red and brown pens to colour in your dried pasta – you could soak them in cold tea or coat them in paint if you want to get them really reddish brown!
5. Cut your orange into four segments. Remove the flesh from two segments so that you are left with two lung-shaped pieces of orange peel (for really authentic mummified lungs, dry out the orange peel somewhere warm!). Put the 'intestines' in one jar and the 'lungs' in another.

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6. The 'liver' is a used dried teabag and the 'stomach' is a pink balloon that has been blown up and let down! Put these into the other two jars.
7. Using sticky tape, attach the correct god picture to each jar. Hapi, the baboon-headed god, protects the lungs (orange peel!).



8. Qebehsenuef, who has a falcon's head, looks after the intestines (dried pasta ribbons!).



9. Duametef, a jackal-headed god, protects the stomach (pink balloon!).

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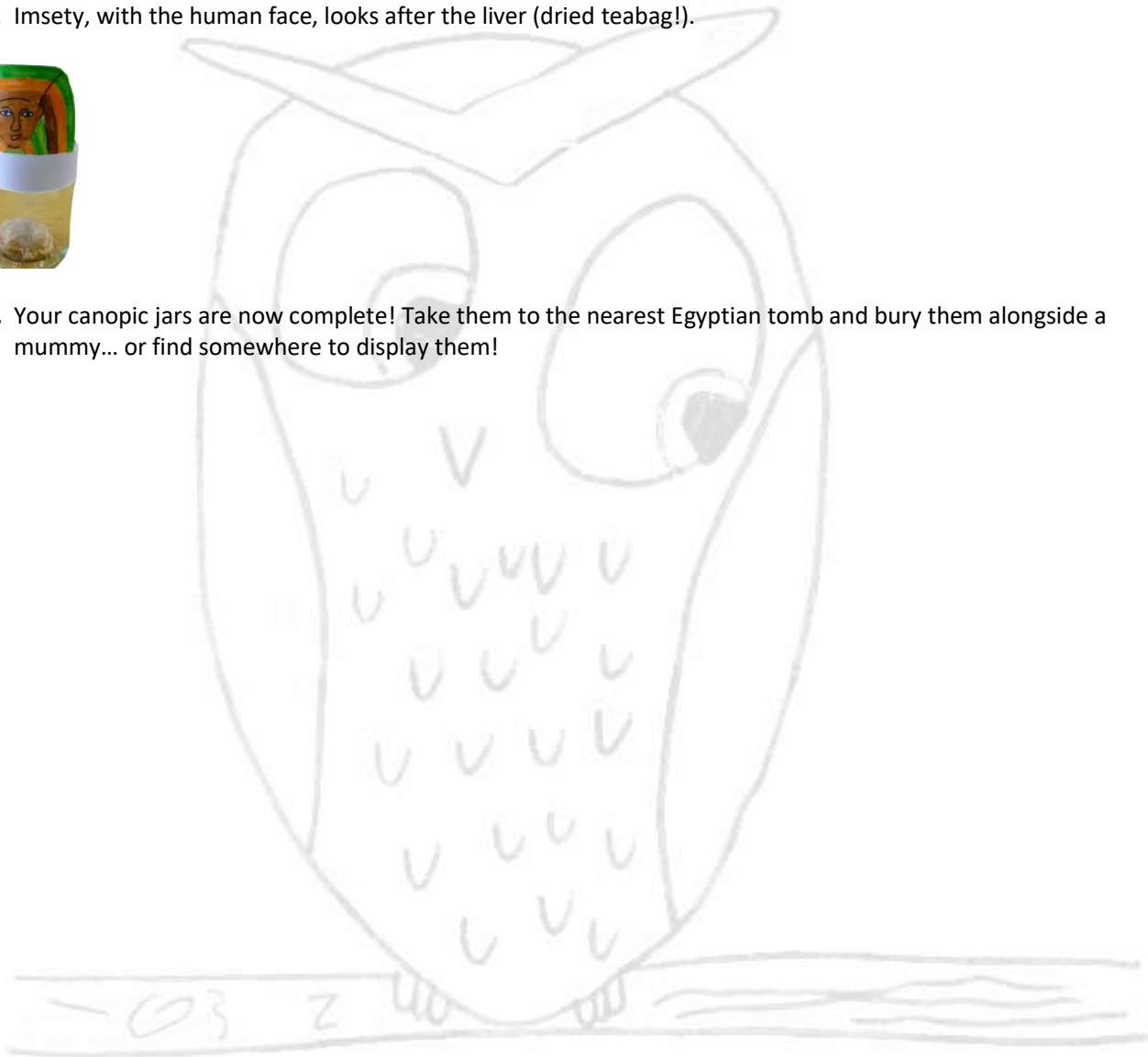
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10. Imsety, with the human face, looks after the liver (dried teabag!).



11. Your canopic jars are now complete! Take them to the nearest Egyptian tomb and bury them alongside a mummy... or find somewhere to display them!





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Hieroglyphic alphabet

A		H		N		U	
B		I		O		V	
C		J		P		W	
D		K		Q		X	
E		L		R		Y	
F		M		S		Z	
G				T			

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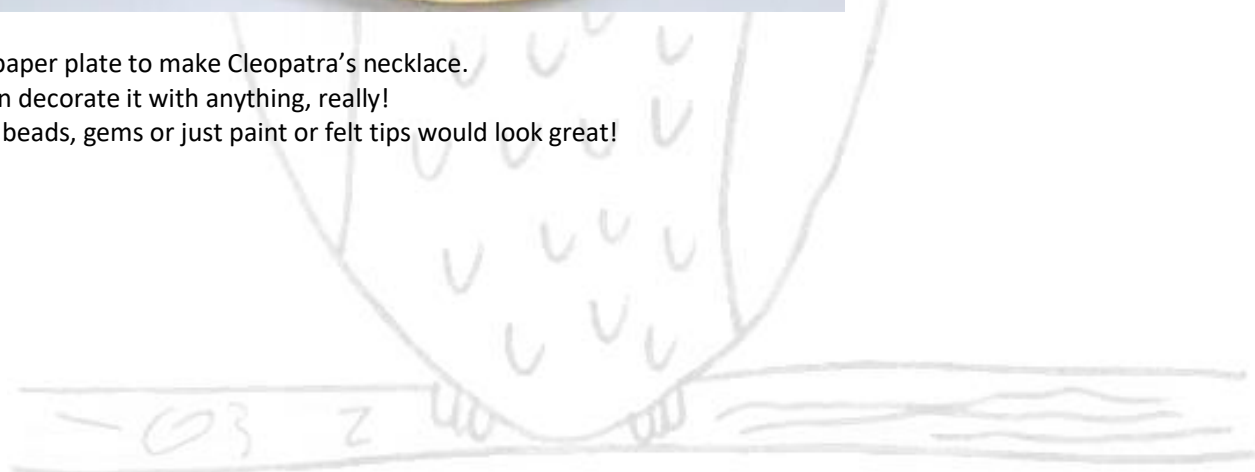


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Making Cleopatra's necklace



Use a paper plate to make Cleopatra's necklace.
You can decorate it with anything, really!
String, beads, gems or just paint or felt tips would look great!

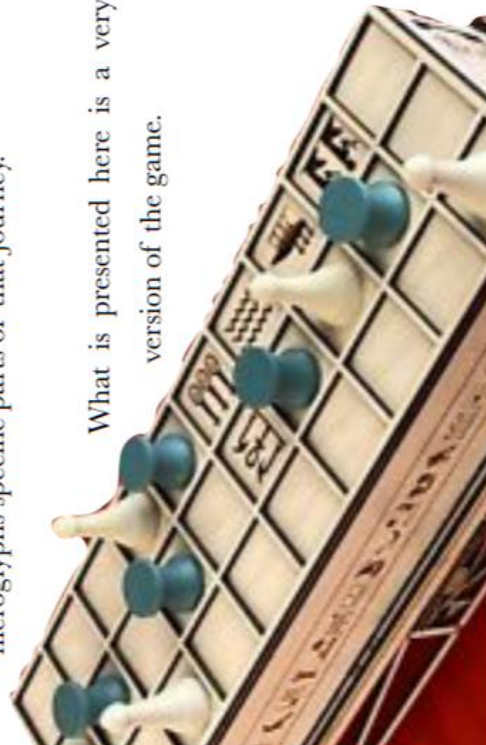




ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GAME

Senet is one of the oldest known board games. Fragmentary boards that could be *senet* have been found in First Dynasty burials in Egypt c. 3100 BC. The game is also referred to in chapter XVII of the *Book of the Dead* and is thought that the game represents the journey from the land of the living to the land of the dead. The hieroglyphs specific parts of that journey.

What is presented here is a very simple version of the game.



TASK ONE

Learn and play the game of Senet. The rules are on page 2 and the board is on page 3. You will need to print these out.

TASK TWO

Once you have mastered the game, make your own board and rules to show you have understood the game. If you wish to learn more about the history of these game's follow this link <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senet>. You could use this to help with your rules.

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RULES

COMPONENTS

You will need:

Board (*printed on the next page*)

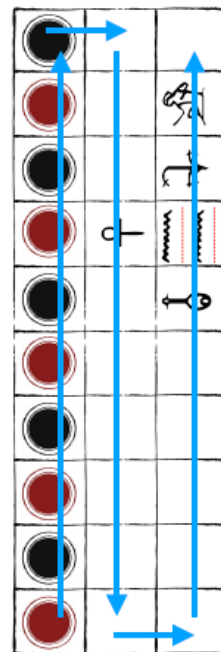
5 black counters (or what you can find)

5 red counters (or what you can find)

4 lolly sticks painted on one side (or 4 coins)

SETTING UP

1. Place all of the **red counters** on the red circles
2. Place all of the **black counters** on the black circles



This diagram shows the forward direction counters will move.

TURNS

Players take alternate turns, with the red player going first.

Throw the sticks/coins. How they land will tell you how many squares forward you can move. You do not need to use all of your moves, but you can only move one counter in a turn.

1 painted side up (1 head) move 1

2 painted side up (2 heads) move 2

3 painted sides up (3 heads) move 3

4 painted sides up (4 heads) move 4

All unpainted (all tails) move 6

You cannot land on one of your own counters. If you land on an opponents counter, those counters swap places.

Counters on hieroglyphs are safe and cannot be landed on.

You need the exact number of moves to land on a hieroglyph.

You need the exact number of moves to land on the last square.

If you can't move forward you must move backwards.

When you get a counter to the last square remove it from the board.

The first player to remove all of their counters is the winner.

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