

KIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 5 NEWSLETTER 2025



YEAR 4

April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to welcome you to the start of our new term.

Our Topic

Term 5: The Americas

Children will learn about America in our geography lessons. In this unit, the children will hear Johnny Cash singing 'I've been everywhere', travel the North and South American continents and distinguish between the terms 'continent', 'region', 'country', 'state' and 'city' along the journey. Children will find images and maps on the internet, and they will make notes on cities and record information about countries and states. They will compare the built environments and settings of the cities and identify some key regions of the American continents.

They will learn about sound in our science lessons. In this project, children will build on their understanding of hearing which was covered in Year 1 during work around the senses. They will develop their vocabulary for describing sounds and identify different sound sources. They will learn that sounds are made by something vibrating and that these vibrations travel through a medium to the ear so that we hear them. They will learn that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases. They will explore ways to change the pitch and volume of sounds. When working scientifically, children will look for patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it. They will also explore the pitch of a sound and ways in which it can be changed. They will do this by investigating how to make and change the sounds produced in a range of different ways. They will have the opportunity to set up simple comparative and fair tests, take measurements, including using data loggers and report on their findings.

Maths and English

In maths lessons, children will be learning about: the four basic operations, properties of shapes, capacity and word problems. In order to support your child, you

could talk to your child about the maths they are learning, looking at different shapes in the real world (and how they can be regular and irregular) and see where capacity is used in such things as recipes.

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 11x table.

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

In English, we will be learning about: geographical reports, stories and legends about the curse of Tutankhamun's tomb and writing a biography of Howard Carter.

In order to support your child, you could look at facts about Ancient Egypt, biographies of famous people they know and talk about what is similar in each of them and look at stories about Tutankhamun's tomb.

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.

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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.

Important Dates

22.04.25 – First day of term 5
30.04.25 – Viking Day
05.05.25 – May Day Bank Holiday
23.05.25 – Last day of Term 5
02.06.25 – First day of Term 6

Yours sincerely

Mr Batterham Ms Phillips Mr Saw

Year 4 Class Teachers

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 are:

- *making a Talking Telephone using plastic or paper cups and string (photographs of children making and using these would earn many House Points!)*
- *using a decibel meter app to find the quietest and loudest parts of your house or garden*
- *finding out about World Records related to sound*
- *trying to beat any World Records to do with sound e.g. how long can you be quiet?*
- *making a musical instrument from items around the home or even creating an entire orchestra (photographs of children using these would earn many House Points!)*
- *making a Sound Sandwich (the children will be seeing these made but you can watch the video here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjmRoEHK_6A&safe=active)*
- *filling the same sized bottles with different amounts of liquid, blowing across the top of each and talking about the different sounds produced*
- *helping your child make their own lava lamp! Instructions are included!*

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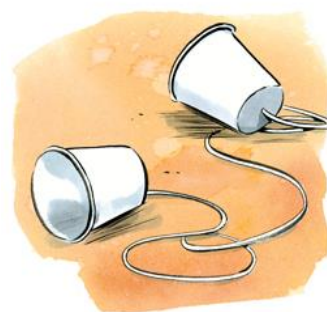
How To Make a String Telephone

Use some old fashioned technology to make a string telephone while learning about sound waves with this fun science project.

All you need is some string, a sharpened pencil, blu-tac and a few paper cups to get started.

You will need:

- 2 paper cups
- a sharp pencil (to help poke holes)
- blu-tac
- string (kite string and fishing lines work well)



Instructions:

1. Cut a long piece of string - you can experiment with different lengths but 20 metres is a good place to start.
2. Poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup using the sharp pencil and blu-tac.
3. Thread the string through each cup and tie knots at each end to stop it pulling through the cup.
4. Move into position with you and a friend holding the cups at a distance that makes the string tight (making sure the string isn't touching anything else).
5. Talk into the cup while the other person puts the cup to their ear and listens. Can you hear each other? What if you make the string even longer?

Examples of musical instruments made from junk-modelling materials.



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Station Road, Kirton, Boston, Lincolnshire PE20 1HY

Tel: 01205 722236

Email: enquiries@kirton-boston.lincs.sch.uk



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Look at the map and see if there are any places you have heard of.

One challenge many adults try to achieve is being able to name all 50 states!

Try learning them all. Anybody who could name them all in school would earn MANY House Points!

Another challenge is to know the capital of each state as well!

Try learning them all. Anybody who could name all the state AND their capitals would earn EVEN MORE House Points!

You will be learning all about Route 66. This is a route that is nearly 4000km long! You could try planning a route and making a list of all the places you would want to stop along the way and all the things you would want to see! It wouldn't have to be a 4000km journey and it wouldn't have to be in America. Get out an atlas or use websites to help you plan a fantastic voyage!



YEAR 4

Make an Easy Lava Lamp

Learn how to make a lava lamp using simple household items such as vegetable oil, food colouring, effervescent antacid tablets and a bottle to create chemical reactions and funky balls of colour that move around like a real lava lamp.

You will need:

- Water, clear plastic bottle, vegetable oil, food colouring, effervescent antacid tablets

Instructions:

- Pour water into the plastic bottle until it is around one quarter full. (You might want to use a funnel when filling the bottle so you don't spill anything.)
- Pour in vegetable oil until the bottle is nearly full.
- Wait until the oil and water have separated.
- Add about twelve drops of food colouring to the bottle (choose any colour you like).
- Watch as the food colouring falls through the oil and mixes with the water.
- Break an effervescent tablet into smaller pieces (around 5 or 6) and drop one of them into the bottle. Things should start getting a little crazy, just like a real lava lamp!
- When the bubbling stops, add another piece of effervescent tablet and enjoy the show again!

What's happening?

Oil and water don't mix very well.

The oil and water you added to the bottle separate from each other, with oil on top because it has a lower density than water.

The food colouring falls through the oil and mixes with the water at the bottom.

The piece of effervescent tablet you drop in releases small bubbles of carbon dioxide gas that rise to the top and take some of the coloured water along with it. The gas escapes when it reaches the top and the coloured water falls back down.



The reason the tablet fizzes in such a way is because it contains citric acid and baking soda (sodium bicarbonate). The two react with water to form sodium citrate and carbon dioxide gas (those are the bubbles that carry the coloured water to the top of the bottle).

Adding more effervescent tablet to the bottle keeps the reaction going so you can enjoy your funky lava lamp for longer. If you want to show someone later you can simply screw on a bottle cap and add more tablets when you need to.

When you've finished all your effervescent tablets, you can take the experiment a step further by tightly screwing on a bottle cap and tipping the bottle back and forth. What happens then?