



BIRKENHEAD
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Year 4 Curriculum Leaflet

AUTUMN TERM - Roll Up, Roll Up!

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting term of learning we have prepared! Year 4's themed curriculum unit, 'Roll Up, Roll Up', will explore the origins and changes over time of the circus. The children's creative writing will be inspired by a book called *Leon and the Place Between* which delves into a world beyond the big top! The girls will investigate electricity and try to discover the best way to light up a circus tent! We will research circuses around the world, including Cirque du Soleil, focusing on how they travel from place to place and the importance of belonging to the circus family.

How you can help your child learn at home:

- Visit your local library and explore books about the circus
- Perhaps visit a circus
- Explore posters for advertising the circus - what do they all have in common? Have they changed over time? How?
- Watch *The Greatest Showman*
- Discuss your views on animals in the circus - can your daughter/ward justify their opinion?

Home Learning Project:

This term's project is to create a fact file that informs the reader about key figures in the history of the circus.

People/companies you may want to investigate:

- P.T. Barnum
- Alexander Calder
- Cirque du Soleil
- Philip Astley

You can present this information anyway you would like; it is your independent learning, show us work that you are proud of!

Notes for the Autumn Term:

- We will be creating our own *Cirque Calder* sculptures so any donations of garden wire would be greatly appreciated.
- We look forward to inviting you in to showcase our final products at the end of this topic so please keep an eye out for the date which is to be confirmed.

Y4 CURRICULUM MAP

Humanities

In History and Geography we will:

- Investigate the history of the circus and the drastic changes it has gone through over time.
- Discover how circuses move from place to place and consider the impact of a travelling circus upon the environment.

Science

In Science we will be exploring the use of electricity including how to construct simple circuits and the safety issues associated with this.

After half term, we will investigate the human impact on our environment and the wider world debating the use of circus animals.

How would you feel travelling around the world?

Maths

We will be:

- learning about place value
- reviewing our times tables knowledge
- extending our reasoning skills
- improving our arithmetical fluency

English

Alongside *Leon and the Place Between* we will read a range of text types using the circus as inspiration.

We will write adverts to persuade people to visit the circus.

The girls will have numerous creative writing opportunities in which to implement our *Y4 Writers' Toolkit* throughout this topic.

Can you think of a new exciting circus act?

Computing

The girls will be focusing on a programme called *Photostory* to produce their very own movie clip based upon our topic.

Art and DT

We will be looking at and discussing the work of artist and sculptor *Alexander Calder* then creating our own 3D sculpture



RE & PSHE

We will explore the values and importance associated with belonging as well as exploring relationships with a focus on collaboration and working as a team.

PE & Music will continue to be taught alongside our themed unit, integrated where appropriate into our Project eXplore work