

Class 4 Newsletter January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. We hope you all had a happy, healthy and refreshing break. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your kind cards and gifts before Christmas.

It has been lovely to welcome your children back to school after the holidays and we are all looking forward to a new term of learning.

Times Tables

As you know, Year 4 is the year of the big times tables test. We aim for all our children to achieve at least 90% on this. Our Maths this term moves from multiplication and division onto fractions and decimals, all of which are highly reliant upon a sound grasp of the times tables. If this is a weak area for your child, please work away at these at home. Ten minutes a day could make a huge impact. The link below has information about the times tables test.

[Multiplication tables check: information for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents)

This link has lots of good times tables games your child could try:

[Times Tables Games for 7 to 11 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/primary/1-6/1-6-times-tables-games)

Every child has a Times Table Rockstars login which would benefit their instant recall.

Reading

Reading is a crucial skill. Please hear your child read at least 3 times a week. Practise re-reading texts and passages as well to develop fluency. If your child is struggling with motivation, try reading alternate pages with them. Please also read to your child as this helps them learn new vocabulary which they can then use in their writing.

There is a weekly whole-school reading challenge where the class with the highest percentage of completed reading records receives additional 15 minutes playtime along with a trophy for the class which is awarded in assembly.

Curriculum at a glance:

English	Class texts: The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit Story writing, diaries and newspaper reports inspired by the books Spelling (homophones, suffixes, prefixes, Year 3/4 word list) Punctuation (dialogue rules, using commas) Grammar (subordinate clauses, fronted adverbials, sentence types)
Maths	Number: times tables, multiplication and division strategies, fractions and decimals, length and perimeter. Problem-solving and reasoning skills
Science	Sound, Living things and their habitats
Geography	Mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes
RE	Sikhism
PSHE	Dreams and Goals; Healthy Me
Computing	We are musicians (producing digital music) We are HTML editors (editing and writing HTML)
PE	Gymnastics; Hockey; Handball; Dance
French	'Presenting' and 'In the classroom'
Art	Sewing
Music	Activities based around Stop! and Lean on Me

Homework

The days are changing from last term as homework club will now be on a Wednesday. Homework will be given on a Wednesday, to be completed and handed in by the following Wednesday.

Homework diaries will be handed in on a Wednesday also.

Spellings (30 minutes): booklet to be completed and spellings to be learned (Test on Thursday)

Reading (20 minutes): At least three times a week, with an adult regularly signing and noting comments in Homework diary, please!

Times tables (30 minutes): Children will be told which to focus on (test every other Wednesday). We have a big national times tables test at the end of Year 4, so please do keep practising these regularly at home!

English and Maths (30 minutes on alternate weeks): Written work to be completed in Homework book and handed in on Wednesday, online activities to be completed by Wednesday.

Please sign the completed homework to indicate that you have seen it being done.

Please remember that children should keep their homework/reading diaries in their book bags so that they are always in school. PE is on a Tuesday and Thursday however, PE kits should also be in school at all times. Please check regularly that everything is labelled. Thank you.

Spelling

The following spelling lists are taken from the National Curriculum –any additional practice will definitely be of benefit!

Word List for Year 3

address answer appear arrive believe bicycle calendar centre
century certain complete continue decide describe early earth
eight/eighth experience experiment extreme famous favourite February
forward(s) fruit grammar group history important learn length library
minute natural notice often perhaps popular probably promise
quarter question regular remember sentence special strange strength
therefore woman women

Word List for Year 4

accident(ally) actual(ly) breath breathe build busy/business caught circle
consider different difficult disappear enough exercise guard guide
heard heart height imagine increase interest island knowledge
material medicine mention naughty occasion(ally) opposite ordinary particular
peculiar position possess(ion) possible potatoes pressure purpose recent
reign separate straight suppose surprise though/although thought through
various weight

Stationery

Pencil cases As we start a new term, please ensure that the children have all the necessary equipment to support their learning.

To clarify, each clear pencil case should include **a glue stick, pencil, pen, 30cm ruler, scissors, pencil sharpener, coloured pencils, whiteboard pen and a rubber.**

Children having key stationery in their pencil case, such as a whiteboard pen, glue stick and ruler as well as a writing pen/pencil really does make a difference to each lesson. It allows learning start quickly and children do not waste time trying to borrow from a friend. Please talk to your children about their stationery and whether anything needs replacing.

If you would be happy to donate any whiteboard pens or glue sticks to the class, we would be extremely grateful.

We all want the very best for your children. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns- find one of us on the playground, jot down a note in the homework diary or send an email via the school office to make an appointment or arrange a phone call.

Thank you in anticipation for your support. We are looking forward to another fantastic term with your wonderful children.

Miss Jones, Mrs Hall, Mrs Wronka