

Year 4 Parent Handbook

Dear Parent / Carers,

Welcome to Year 4! The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information about life in Year 4.

Year 4 Staff



Mrs Hamblin
Class teacher in 4SH

Mrs Hart
Year 4 leader
Class teacher in 4LH

Mr Richards
Class teacher in 4DR

Mrs De La Cour
LSA in 4SH

Mrs Lewis
LSA in 4LH

Mrs Tucker
LSA in 4DR

Teachers are given PPA time once a week (Planning, Preparation and Assessment time out of class). In Year 4, the PPA team is scheduled to teach every Tuesday afternoon. The PPA team consist of:

- Mrs Picken in 4LH
- Miss Stevenson in 4SH
- Mrs Townson in 4DR

In addition, Mrs Blois also covers Mrs Hart's Year Group Leader release time every second Friday in 4LH.

Contacting Us

As teachers, we operate an open door policy and so, if you would like to share successes or concerns regarding your child, we are always available on the school playground at the end of each day. Alternatively, you may be able to catch us before school by reporting to the school office first. You can also contact us via phone by leaving a message in the office and we will endeavour to quickly return your call.

We will also contact you via text message to share successes and achievements on a more informal basis – please ensure that the office has your most up to date details on our system.

10th **October** is our Open Classroom event from 4pm – 5.30pm. This will provide an opportunity for you to share the work your child has done so far and more details will be sent out closer to the time. Furthermore, there will be Parents' Evenings on **21st and 22nd November**.

We really appreciate your help in class! If you are available and willing to join us on a regular basis in class, we always appreciate volunteers to help children with reading **especially during Guided Reading sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings – please contact the office if you are able to help with these sessions**. In addition, there are many opportunities for you to join us in the classroom for specific events, including Art / D&T activities and trips. Please contact your child's class teacher if you would like to help. We look forward to hearing from you!

Home Learning



The purpose of home learning is to extend and consolidate pupils' understanding of the topics they have been learning about at school. It should also develop pupils' independent learning and organisational skills. Homework tasks that are set will relate to work carried out in class and pupils will have the suitable skills to complete tasks on their own. Home learning is set every **Thursday** and needs to be handed in on **Tuesday**. Tasks are intended to last for no more than **1 hour**. There may be occasions when your child is set a project for home learning. In addition to home learning activities, pupils are also expected to complete their weekly spellings, practise their times tables and read at least 5x a week.

Please refer to the school's Home Learning policy, which can be found on the school website, if you require any further information.

We would appreciate it if you could remind your child to present their work neatly.



Spelling

The children have been placed into spelling groups and spelling words have been set according to the level of support required; spelling rules and patterns may be revisited in order to further embed them. Your child has been provided with their spelling booklet which consists of the spellings for this half term. Each week the children will be tested on 5 national curriculum words that they are expected to recognise and spell by the end of year 4. Additionally, they will be expected to explore spelling rules and generate their own words to fit each of the rules. This practise should be recorded in their home learning books. We will have explored each of the rules within our literacy work. The spelling booklet also contains a series of activities you might like to try in order to help your child learn their spellings. It is important to note that the children will be tested on the rule and not necessarily the examples set out in the booklet.

The children will be tested on their spellings on **Thursdays**.

Reading

The school library allows your child to borrow 2 books and it is recommended that pupils borrow 1 fiction and 1 non-fiction book. Please encourage your child to regularly change their library book.

We would expect your child to be reading regularly and expect to see at least 5 entries in their reading record. Children will be awarded team points for regular reading. Reading records will be checked every **Tuesday** and returned on this day.



We advise you listen to your child read aloud in order to help develop their expression and fluency. It is also beneficial to ask questions and discuss the text to improve their comprehension. (i.e. What do you think will happen next? What do you know about? How does the character feel?).

Times Tables

The Curriculum states that, 'by the end of Year 4, pupils should be able to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12x12'. Therefore, it is important for the children to learn to be able to recall them quickly and accurately.

To support the learning of times tables, there will be four awards to complete – bronze, silver, gold and diamond. Following initial assessment, your child has been allocated an award and should have brought home a corresponding booklet. The booklet is to be kept at home; it explains the facts they will need to learn, has suggested websites to aid the learning of times tables facts and an example of the timed test they will complete on **Wednesdays**. Each week, your child will be encouraged to better their previous score. To progress onto the next award, your child needs to achieve full marks three consecutive times. The reason for the limited time is to ensure that the children are doing mental calculations. Once the award has been completed, your child will then be given the opportunity to master their times tables knowledge by attempting the PLUS awards. Here, children will be looking at using their 'inverse' knowledge of multiplication to recall division facts. It is important that children understand the relationship between multiplication and division. A good knowledge of times tables is essential to help your child progress in Maths, therefore we ask that you encourage your child to practise them frequently.

PE

PE will take place on **Mondays and Thursdays**.

If for any reason your child is unable to take part in a PE session, please provide a letter of explanation. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit to each session. Their kits should consist of trainers/plimsolls, dark shorts, white T-shirts and an outdoor tracksuit. Spare kit is not provided by the school. **Jewellery must not be worn** for PE and children wearing earrings, must remove them before the lesson and **be able to do this themselves. If they are unable to remove their earrings, it is suggested they do not wear them to school on PE days.** Pupils who are unable to participate in PE lessons will be asked to record and evaluate or help coach the PE lesson.

Important dates for this term are as follows:

Friday 28th September – Anglo Saxon Day (more details to follow)

Friday 5th October - Harvest Festival

Wednesday 10th October – Lower School Open Classrooms 4:00-5:30pm

Tuesday 16th October – Individual School Photographs

Friday 9th November - Remembrance Service @ 10:45am

Wednesday 21st November - Parents Evening 4:00pm to 7:30pm

Thursday 22nd November - Parents Evening 4:00pm to 7:30pm

Tuesday 18th December - Year 4 Nativity @ St Paul's 7pm

Wednesday 19th December - Year 4 Nativity @ St Paul's 7pm

Thursday 20th December - Carol Services

Friday 21st December - End of Term

January 7th January – Spring term 1 begins

We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working in partnership with you this year.

Kind regards
The Year 4 Team

Mrs Hart

Mrs Hamblin

Mr Richards