

Life in All its Fullness – Come and See



Year 4

Autumn 2026 Newsletter



Welcome back to a new school year and to year 4! I sincerely hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer, whatever you got up to. I am really looking forward to welcoming you all back into the new academic year and getting to work with you and your children in year 4. At the start of each term, we will be sending out a newsletter similar to this one, which will provide an overview of our upcoming learning. I am sure everyone is excited to see what this academic year has in store!

Maths

In Maths, we follow the **Herts Essential Maths** scheme, with other supporting resources. Techniques to support learning include use of partner talk, games, investigations and CPA approaches (concrete, pictorial and abstract). In the first term, we focus on the following topics: place value; rounding numbers; addition and subtraction (mental strategies and formal written methods;) counting in multiples and developing times tables knowledge to 12 x 12 (with a focus on 6, 7, and 9;) developing our problem solving skills; multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. Additional short **Maths Fluency** sessions will be delivered, to work alongside the main lessons.



English

Our focus text for writing this half term is 'Counting on Katherine,' a beautifully illustrated non-fiction book retelling the inspiring story of Katherine Johnson. This unit focuses on the use of fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases, leading up to the children writing their own fact file. This text will also support our weekly spelling sessions in the first half term.

After half term, we will use the text 'Leon and the place between,' a captivating picture book full of wonder! The children will write a recount based on the text.

We will have guided reading sessions throughout the week. These sessions will help support the children's fluency, as well as develop their comprehension skills through a variety of question types.

Science

We will start the term exploring **states of matter**. This unit will teach us about the differences between solids, liquids, and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. During Autumn 2, we will focus on the **digestive system in humans and animals and the functions of teeth**. Children will learn more about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores in the context of teeth, digestion and the food chain. The children will have lots of opportunities to work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate and learn how to present their findings scientifically.



Geography/History

We will start with a short Geography unit, looking at 4 figure grid references. After recapping compass directions, the children will learn how to use grid references to locate features on a map. We will then move on to our Ancient Egypt topic in History. We will find out when and where the Ancient Egyptians lived and place this within the context of previous topics studied. We will investigate what life was like in Ancient Egyptian times, why the Nile was so important, who the great pharaohs were, and how/why pyramids were built. Of course, we will also look at mummification! This wonderful topic provides lots of cross-curricular opportunities.

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RE

Our focus religions this term are Islam and Christianity. The two questions we will be considering this term are:

Autumn 1: Why do Muslims call Muhammed the 'seal of the prophets'?

Autumn 2: How does believing Jesus is their saviour inspire Christians to save and serve others?



Art and DT

Our DT this term focuses on cooking. Children will have the opportunity to plan, test, and evaluate their own recipe! Art will link to our History topic and focus on craft and design. We will explore ancient Egyptian Art, using sketchbooks to record ideas.

PE

PE will be on **Thursday** and **Friday** each week. Please ensure that children come to school in their PE kits on those days. This half term we will be focusing on teamwork and collaboration, and exploring bridges in Gymnastics. After half term, we will move onto skills in Handball and Foot Golf. Please make sure that clothing is appropriate for all weathers.



Computing

In the first half term, children will learn about hardware and software, before exploring the medium of audiobooks. After half term, we will learn about, and create, animations!

Music

Our first unit is 'Musical Structures' and asks the question 'how does music bring us together?' We will explore various songs throughout the unit to answer this.



French

We are very fortunate to have the expertise of Mrs Daniell, who will work with the children each week.



RHE

Lessons will follow the JIGSAW scheme of work. This term we look at '**Being me in my world**' and '**Celebrating differences**'.

Further information

By the end of Year 4, your child should know multiplication and division facts for **times tables** up to 12 x 12. Whilst we will practice a huge amount in school, it is imperative your child practice at home regularly too in order to develop speed of recall and fluency. This knowledge really does feed into so many areas of Maths. **Towards the end of the year, the children will sit the 'Multiplication tables Check'**. Your support, therefore, in encouraging practise of multiplication tables at home would be greatly appreciated. Resources such as the Times Table Rockstars website & the BBC Sport Times Table videos/songs can be fun ways of practising.

Please provide your child with a daily healthy snack for break time and please ensure your child has a **named water bottle** in school each day. As the weather starts to turn colder and wetter, please do ensure a coat is bought in every day.

We are really looking forward to a fabulous term, with lots of new learning and experiences for the children, celebrating **life in all its fullness**.

Mrs Buck and Mrs Lane

