

Autumn: Term 1 Year 4

Welcome to Year 4!

Hello and welcome to year 4! It's great to see how excited the children are to be back and with such a positive attitude ready for the half-term ahead.

Year 4 staff:

Badgers: Mrs Arrowsmith (Monday-Thursday) and Mrs Bailey (Friday's)

Foxes: Mrs Phillips (Tuesday-Friday) and Mrs Gell (Monday's)

TAs: Mrs Deller, Mrs Micek-Bettison, Mrs Gibbons, Mrs Greenfield, Miss Williamson and Mrs Raymond

Mr Mullins (PE) will also join us on Tuesday afternoons.

Our topic this half term is called:

Were the Vikings just invaders?

History	Vikings
Science	States of Matter- solids, liquids and gases
Design and Technology	Shell structures- containers/nets
Computing	Drawing
PE	Outdoor- Netball Indoor- Fundamentals: Balancing, running, hopping, jumping, dodging.
English	Core skills in English + Narrative: Zelda Claw and the Rain Cat
Maths	Place value, addition and subtraction
PSHE	Me and my relationships
French	At the café - Au salon de thé
Music	Playing with rhythms

PE will be on a Tuesday (outdoor) and a Wednesday (Indoor)

Please note that jewellery is **not** permitted in PE lessons for safety reasons. If your child cannot take their own earrings out, please make sure they have been removed before school. Children with long hair should wear it up during PE lessons so please ensure they have a bobble.

Reading – Our class text will be: The Firework Maker's Daughter

In Year 4, we expect the children to **read 3 or more times a week at home** and should be recorded in their organisers. While listening to them read, you could also ask questions about something they may have seen or heard to improve their comprehension skills. e.g. asking them to predict what might happen next (and why), asking about a character's feelings and actions, or getting them to summarise what they have just read.

New reading diaries are for the whole school year, so children should get into the habit keeping them in their bags, so that they know where they are and to school daily.

Each half term we work towards a reading reward. Children need to aim for at least 3 signatures per week, which will contribute to a whole class total. We're working towards a total of 1,000 reads per class to earn a special reading treat.

Spellings

Children will receive a set of spellings each week, which will be stuck into their organisers every Friday and also uploaded onto Class Dojo. It's important that children bring their organisers to school daily so they can access their spelling lists during practice sessions.

Some children may be given a reduced number of spellings tailored to the week's spelling rule. These will be highlighted in yellow and will be the only words they are tested on.

Spelling tests will take place every Friday. Additionally, at the end of each half term, children will be assessed on approximately 15 words linked to the spelling rules covered during that period. If your child learns their spellings quickly, please encourage them to practise using the words in full sentences to deepen their understanding.

Times Tables- How can I support my child in maths?

Under the current National Curriculum, children are expected to know all of their times tables by the end of Year 4 (up to 12x12). The government have introduced **a multiplication table check (MTC) for children in Year 4, which takes place in June 2026**. The times table check relies on children being able to recall times table facts in 6 seconds, with a 3 second rest before the next question. Please support your child to help them learn their **multiplication tables** at home. To support this, all children in Year 4 have a **Times Table Rockstars login** – using TTRS helps track their progress and determine where more support and practise is required. Although the questions are generated randomly, questions about the 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12 times table come up more often, so the speed of recall in these times tables is vital.

Doodle Maths

Your child will already have been using this learning platform and we would like the children to continue with this throughout Year 4 - It has been proven that little and often will support the children's with learning and remembering. Logins have changed so new ones are stuck in the organisers. (If your child lost their streak when they were changed please let us know.)

Important Dates

Viking Day- In school- Week beginning
Trip to National Civil War Centre Wednesday 11th February 2026
Ilam YHA residential - TBC
Times Table Check – June 2026
Please see the school website/Dojo for term dates and INSET days.

Communication with your child's class teacher

We will be continuing to use ClassDojo as our main method of sending and receiving information. We will upload messages and anything of interest – so please ensure you check regularly.

Class Dojo will be checked regularly and we aim to reply with 3 working days. Any urgent messages should be e-mailed/phoned in to the school as Class Dojo may not be checked before/during the school day.

Class teachers are available at the end of the day on the school playground for any quick conversations or to make an appointment for longer conversations. TAs will also be available on the playground in the mornings to pass any messages on to class teachers.

We look forward to working with you and your child.

Year 4 team