

Y4 Badgers Newsletter

Term 1 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. Hopefully your son or daughter has enjoyed their first few days and are looking forward to the rest of the year. The children seem pleased to be back and have been keen and enthusiastic to learn so far. I will be in school four days a week (Tuesday to Friday) and Mrs Cottenden will teach them all day Monday as well as Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. This term Mrs Cottenden will teach computing, PE, RE, PSHE and science as well as a maths and literacy lesson. Mrs Pilfold will continue to be with the class all week and Mrs Brown will join us every day except Monday. They will provide a wide range of support including interventions, focused teaching in small groups and extension activities.

Year 4 Curriculum content

Literacy

The children will complete a range of tasks this term including narrative writing (excuse letters and an alien themed story), discussion writing, an explanatory text and a recount linked to our school trip. We will also do regular spelling practice, grammar work and handwriting practice. Extended writing sessions will take place regularly to ensure we have a wide range of evidence to support on-going assessment of writing.

Numeracy

Topics this term will mainly focus on place value: reading and writing numbers beyond 1000 and up to 999, 999; recognising the value of digits in numbers; ordering and comparing numbers; rounding to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. We will also practise column addition and subtraction with 4 digits and will complete investigative and problem-solving activities, arithmetic sessions and times tables practice on a regular basis.

Science

We will continue focusing on a different area of science each week with either a biology, chemistry or physics focus. Our lessons in Term 1 will focus on: parts of plants, food chains, evaporation and condensation, light, friction and earth's movement in space.

Computing

In computing the children will use a range of software such as Garage Band, Purple Mash and Isle of Tune to write and perform their own compositions. They will also complete a unit of work on e-safety.

Geography

This term we will focus on map and atlas skills. We will begin by finding and naming countries and continents of the world. We will then look at countries and the capital cities in Europe, and lastly focus on the countries in the UK and their physical features. Please encourage your son or daughter to further their knowledge on the topic by looking at and discussing maps of Europe together or completing any additional research activities at home, which can then be shared at school.

As a hook into our Victorians topic in Term 2 we will be visiting Kent Life on Tuesday 14th October. More details to follow in a separate letter.

RE

Our first unit of work this year focuses on life as a journey: we will complete learning about Christian Baptism, Jewish Bar Mitzvah, marriage and Hindu views on the afterlife.

Art

We will begin by focusing on the contemporary artist Sandra Silberzweig, completing colourful portrait work using chalks and pastel. We will also create Picasso style portraits using collage techniques.

Music

In music the children will be learning to play the recorder. Each child will be provided with their own instrument which will be sanitized before use and then kept in their tray.

PSHE

In PSHE we will be considering the strengths, skills and interests we all have and thinking about our own personal qualities and setting goals for the year ahead.

French

Our unit 'On y va' (All aboard) focuses on the weather, days of the week and transport. We will also revisit and practise vocabulary and phrases for greetings, numbers, days of the week etc.

PE

Lessons will take place on Wednesday and Thursday. Kit consists of a plain red T-shirt, plain black shorts and trainers. As the weather begins to get colder the children are also allowed to bring a tracksuit for outdoor PE lessons. Please mark every item with your child's name. If your child wears stud earrings please remember that these need to be removed for lessons or covered with micropore.

Homework

Homework and spellings will continue to be set every Thursday, to be handed in or tested on the following Tuesday. Children will be expected to practise their weekly spellings in whichever way they find most effective. Main group spellings for the term:

18.9.25	25.9.25	2.10.25	9.10.25
caught	inactive	immature	illegal
naughty	incorrect	immeasurable	illegible
taught	inaccurate	impossible	illogical
daughter	insecure	immortal	illiterate
autumn	indefinite	imperfect	illicit
clause	incomplete	impatient	irregular
cause	infinite	immovable	irrelevant
astronaut	inedible	impolite	irresponsible
applaud	inability	important	irrational
author	indecisive	improper	irresistible

By the end of Year 4 it is expected that the children know all their times tables up to 12 x 12: they will be formally assessed on this next June, as will all Year 4 children across the country. Please try and make time at home to practise times tables on a regular basis. I have sent home a copy of 'A Grown Up's Guide to Times Tables,' which has lots of useful ideas in it. There are numerous apps around that support learning of times tables, and in the 'More' section of Maths Shed the children can access the Multiplication Tables Check' (MTC) which offers practice identical to the national assessment. Here are some useful websites to also support in this area:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk>

<https://www.mathschase.com>

<https://mathsframe.co.uk>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/timestable/index.html>

Reading

Please encourage daily reading of 15-20 minutes, which should be recorded in their Home School Record book. The children are free to read their scheme reading book or a book from the class library. By now you should have received a list of suggested reading books for Year 4.

Stationery

Please note, the children have been provided with all the equipment they need for school so they do not need to bring a pencil case in with their own items.

If you have any questions or queries please pop and have a chat with me at the beginning or end of the day.

Kind regards,

Mrs Munro, Mrs Cottenden, Mrs Pilfold and Mrs Brown