

Welcome to Year 4



Mrs Ashford – Class teacher
Mrs Hebden and Mrs Earl – Teaching assistants
Mrs Nicklin – Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Welcome back to Year 4! Year 4 is a year full of new challenges and this year we have some great new topics to inspire and motivate the children to achieve and exceed the expected outcomes by the end of the year.

Our first topic is called 'Volcanoes' where the children will learn about what a Volcano is, how they erupt, and they will look at reasons why people live near them. During Autumn 2, they learn about life in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, they will know how Britain changed between the beginning of the stone age and the iron age.

In Spring 1, the topic is 'Rainforests'. Here the children learn all about Rainforests, who lives there, focussing largely on the future of the Rainforests and what we can do to preserve them. Spring 2 sees us learning all about the Mayan civilisation, and what impact they had on the world.

In the Summer term, the topics are 'The Victorians' where the children learn all about what like was like in a Victorian school and are able to compare this with the modern day education. The topic for the final half term, in Summer 2, is based on the local area and identifying key human and physical features.

What to expect in Year 4

Arriving at school and the morning routine

The children come straight in to school via the main entrance door. The children will be greeted by their teacher in the classroom and they will pack away their bags, take out their reading books and water bottles and go to their table. They will then complete any Early work that has been set them.

It is important that the children arrive on time to register and that they don't miss the *Early Work* that has been set for them to do.

It is important that the children arrive on time to register as they start with their learning the moment they enter the classroom.

Mrs Ashford will be standing at the classroom door from 8.40am so if you have any messages that you wish to pass on do so then. Alternatively, you can catch her at the end of the day. If you wish to discuss something in greater depth please make an appointment at the school office.

Lunches

It is really important that the children know what they are having for lunch each day; packed lunch, school dinner or the option of a baked potato with cheese/beans if they do not like what is on the menu for that day. Please discuss this with your child. If your child is having a school dinner then this needs to be booked online.

Uniform and other items

Please ensure all uniform (including, coats and shoes) plus water bottles and book bags, is labelled clearly with your child's name.

Please check that your child has all the required PE kit – light blue T-shirt with school logo, black shorts, plain black hooded sweatshirt, optional plain black track suit trousers for cold weather, trainers/plimsolls, a pair of socks.

P.E bags can be left in school and will be sent home each half term unless we have got particularly muddy or soaking wet during a lesson.



Reading

In Year 4 the children will choose a book appropriate to their ability. This might be a reading scheme book or a chapter book that they will bring home. At St Lawrence we do not have one set reading scheme to follow; we use a variety of books from a range of schemes and non-scheme books. We will help your child to choose a book appropriate to their reading ability. They can change their book whenever they have finished reading it but we ask that you record this in their reading diary and write a short comment.

In Year 4 each child reads at least once a week to an adult, this could be during a group session.

How you can support your child's reading at home

- Please hear your child read as often as possible.
- Record a short comment in their reading diary.
- Read to your child; a variety of stories as well as non-fiction.

Guided Reading

This is going to be taking place at 9:15am for 30 minutes from Monday to Friday. This gives the children an opportunity to delve deeper into a given text with the support of an adult. The main goal of guided reading is to help students use reading strategies whilst reading for meaning independently.

Library

The children can choose a book from the library to take home. Our library day is **Thursday**.



Writing

Many Year 4s will be confidently joining their letters now. We will continue to practise handwriting and children who need extra support will have the opportunity to work in a small adult led group.

Spelling

In year 4 we use the Sir Link a lot website. The children will be tested every two weeks and we will share the videos with them in class as well as expecting them to view at home. They will be told which set of spellings we are covering.

Maths

We aim to make maths as fun and as practical as possible. The National Curriculum is challenging so we appreciate your support in reinforcing and practising concepts at home. We will be conducting lots of investigations this year so children will be applying knowledge and skills with greater independence. They will need to explain what they have found out to demonstrate mastery of the concepts taught.

Areas you can practise at home are:

- Telling the time
- Using money – adding, finding change.
- Naming and describing 2d and 3d shapes – sides, edges, vertices, faces, right angles, rotations, inversions.
- Writing numbers to 1000 in words and figures.
- Reciting times tables – expected to know all times tables to x12 by end of Year 4. These will be formally tested at the end of the school year in the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.
- Measure height. Use scales to weigh cooking ingredients. Discuss different units of measure e.g. centimetres, millimetres, grams, litres.

Homework

English / Maths: English and Maths homework is sent home every week and it will usually follow what has been taught in class. This is sent out every **Thursday** and is expected back no later than **Tuesday** in the following week.

Reading: Please read regularly with your child – 10 minutes every school night is ideal.

Spelling: Practise weekly spellings on the Sir Link a lot website.

Times tables: Recite all times tables up to x12 and related division facts.

What does a typical day in Year 4 look like?

The mornings usually follow the same timetable of maths and English activities. The afternoon sessions vary from day to day and half term to half term. We take on a termly topic so our science, history or geography, design technology, art and music usually relate to the topic. Other subject areas including computing, R.E, Personal Social, Health, Emotional and Citizenship education (PSHE&C) and P.E. are taught every week as discrete subjects.

All sessions include focused, adult-led tasks and independent tasks.

Here is an example of a day in Year 4:

8.40am – Classroom doors open. Registration and Early Morning work.

9.00am – Collective worship

9.15am – Guided Reading

9.45am – Maths

10:45am – Playtime

11.00am - English

12.15 – 1.15pm - Lunchtime

1.15pm – Register

x2 lessons in the afternoon which will include: topic (usually history, geography, art or DT based), science, RE, PSHE, Music and French

3.20pm – Home time



I hope this information is useful. Please ask if you are unsure of anything.