

YEAR 4 CLASS NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2024



Welcome back to Year 4! Our new classroom looks fantastic and we are so excited to start our learning in the new space. The following information is a brief overview of routines and topics this term.

New entrance and exit routines!

Year 4 will enter through the door that leads down the corridor, accessed through the Year 1 outdoor area end gate. Children will hang their coats and bags on their pegs and enter the Year 4 classroom from the corridor. Bags should be as small as possible and pencil cases are not needed in the classroom. At home time, children will exit from the same door/adjacent door with all their belongings.

Children should not bring toys and special objects from home to school. We are limited on space and there is no guarantee it will not get lost or broken while they are here. We do not hold 'show and tell' sessions – unless it has been arranged as part of learning (e.g. bring in an old toy for a History lesson).

Jumpers go missing often! Please put a name label or initials in them so they can be returned if they do get separated from their owner.

In Year 4, children can bring a play time snack. Water bottles can be kept in the classroom, or on their desk if needed.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL/CLASS – so be mindful when choosing a snack to send your child with.

Messages:

As morning drop offs are busy and we are encouraging children to be more independent in Year 4, we ask that any urgent or sensitive messages are shared with Mrs GB or Miss Miller (appointments, issues or concerns, important allergies or ailments). The admin email address is admin@escrick.n-yorks.sch.uk. Any brief queries or questions can be written in their reading record or on a piece of paper. This can then be handed to their teacher by the child – e.g. 'James does not have his black PE shorts today – apologies'.

TOPICS and learning

Romans/cities and counties of the UK (History/Geography)

Our new topic in History is the Romans! We will be learning about what the Romans brought to Britain, who the Celts were, why the Romans were successful and understanding who some of the famous Romans and Celts were and why. We will also take a look at the Roman influences found in York and the surrounding areas. In Geography, we take a look at counties of the UK and England, with a particular focus on Yorkshire. We compare the geographical features of different counties and also locate a number of key cities in the UK and what makes them unique.

Maths

In maths we will begin the year with refreshing our place value knowledge. Building on our prior knowledge of 3-digit numbers, we then move onto 4-digit numbers to 10,000. A solid understanding of number composition and the different representations is important for calculations. We then move onto methods for addition and subtraction, both mental and written methods and applying this to problems and puzzles.

English

We are looking at both fiction and non-fiction texts this term. Our first focus text is a 'Roman Diary' from the perspective of a slave girl called Iliona. We will write stories in Historical settings, instructions and explanation texts linked to some of our topics. After this, we look at the story of 'The Pied Piper' and learn about the extraordinary power of sound and music, linking nicely to our Science topic.

Science - Sound

In Science, we are going to be understanding how sound is made and how it travels. We will carry out investigations to explore the properties of sound and have a go at using instruments to test our ideas. We will also be using the data loggers to carry out some sound readings and use our computing skills too.

Music

In music we are learning the famous Abba song, Mamma Mia! We will learn about rhythm, pulse, tempo and pitch while performing the song and using instruments in groups to create our own mini band.

Jigsaw PSHE and RE

Our new puzzle piece for Jigsaw PSHE is 'Being me' – we learn about feeling included, community and how to be the best version of ourselves.

In RE, we are learning about The Holy Trinity and how God is known by three different names. We learn this through stories and facts about Christian beliefs and relate this to similar stories and hold discussions about spirituality.

Art/D&T

In art, we will be studying the artwork and sculptures of the Romans. We will use mixed materials to sketch, draw and paint in different styles, looking at portraits, mosaics and still life images. Our studies will also explore the REAL Roman mosaics found under the streets of York.

Computing

In computing, we will be learning about networks and how the internet and the Worldwide Web works. We will understand how messages are sent and received, what kinds of information can be shared and how to stay safe online. We also consider how we can tell if a website is genuine or fake, which is very topical with the rise of Artificial Intelligence.

Spanish

In Spanish we will recap our learning from Year 3. Then we will move on to learning how to introduce ourselves and learning basic greetings.

Timetable and other info

PE, dance and forest school – Wednesday PE, Thursday dance Friday forest school – Week 1 (starting Friday 13th September)

PE is on Wednesday – children will need PE kit in school on this day. Thursday is dance, which is taught in the hall. Indoor PE kit is needed for this. We are extremely lucky to continue our forest school sessions this year and have a fortnightly forest school session on alternate Friday mornings, starting on Friday 13th September. Please ensure FULL forest school kit is provided, including wellies/old shoes, and suitable trousers and cover ups/waterproofs depending on the weather.

Spellings and homework

New spellings will be given out on Fridays. These will either follow the Year 4 spelling rules (such as suffixes or homophones) or a spelling sound pattern, e.g. ough. Suggested activities for learning and practising spellings will be given. Homework is marked with a tick and a team point – pieces of homework that may take longer to complete are marked with a comment and are sometimes shared with their peers in a session to celebrate their good work.

Main homework tasks will vary from grammar work, maths tasks and practise to Science activities or other written work and research.

Homework and spelling books are to be handed in as soon as it is complete, by Thursday at the latest to allow time to mark and return them to children on Friday. Homework handed in after this day may not be marked until the following week.

Reading records and reading books

Children have the opportunity to read every day in class and at least once a week in a small group with the teacher or another adult. Children need to bring their reading record and book to school each day – they will contain logins for websites used often and are a way for us to see which books they are reading and enjoying at home.

We encourage reading continuing to read aloud together at home (possibly taking it in turns to encourage participation!), especially if your child is not yet fully fluent. Please make a note of reading aloud in the reading record.

Children in Year 4 are often classes as 'free readers' – they are free to choose books provided by school to take home and read. You may also wish to visit your local library, who have a wide range of quality books to borrow, in both paperback and electronic forms. In Year 4, we would like children to start keep a log of books they have read and give them a brief score/review to develop their reading taste and preferences.

Thank you for your continued support, Miss Wilde.