



11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Year 4 Class Curriculum Newsletter – Aut 1

Welcome to year 4! I hope you have all had a wonderful break and are ready for an exciting term of learning. I am looking forward to supporting your children as they continue to develop their confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning.

This newsletter outlines some of the key areas we will be covering this term and ways you can support your child at home. I welcome and appreciate your support in helping your child meet Year 4 expectations. If there is anything you would like to clarify, please do not hesitate to ask.

English

In writing, we will be exploring two rich picture books by Grahame Baker-Smith. First, 'The Ever-changing Earth', where we will be producing our own explanation texts about a chosen topic. Next, 'Farther', where we will write an instruction text on a flying machine and plan our own version narratives.

In reading, we will be starting with 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo, a beautiful tale of friendship, 'The Butterfly Lion' examines the life-long bond that exists between a lonely young boy and a lion cub he befriends, a bond that is sustained across both time and distance. We will then end the term with 'Charlotte's Web' by E.B. White, a poignant, humorous story of a pig, a spider and a little girl. A novel of friendship, love, life and death that follows a pig called Wilbur and his friend Charlotte, a spider.

Spellings, each week we will explore a different area of spelling rules. Children will also explore the Year 3 and Year 4 spelling list and statutory words. Each week they will be given their 10 spelling words and 5 of the Year 3 and Year 4 spelling words to practice and be tested on the following week.

Maths

This term we will be exploring place value with numbers up to 10,000, this includes representing, partitioning, estimating, comparing, ordering and rounding numbers. We will also be learning to add and subtract 4-digit numbers by exchanging and estimating answers.

Times Tables Test

In June, the children take part in the MTC (Multiplication Tables Check). The government's expectation is that, by the end of Year 4, the children should know the 2 to 12 times tables off by heart. The children take part in the MTC on a Chromebook. They are given 25 random questions and are given 6 seconds per question. We will be doing a lot of practice in school. Extra practice would be greatly beneficial for your child. We will be completing daily practice to ensure that the children feel confident and ready for this.

How you can help at home

Short, daily bursts of practice (5–10 minutes) are much more effective than long weekly sessions. Here is some fun, "no-screen" games you can play:

Westlea Primary School, Langstone Way, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7BT.
phone: 01793 870469. email: admin@westleaschool.org.uk

Learning without limits, belonging without barriers.

- **Rock, Paper, Multiply:** Just like the classic game, but when you reveal your fingers, the first person to multiply the two hands together wins a point.
- **Card Snap:** Use a deck of playing cards (remove the picture cards). Flip two cards over at the same time; the first person to call out the product wins the pair.
- **Times Table Shootout:** Stand back-to-back. On the count of three, jump around and "fire" a multiplication question at each other. The quickest correct answer wins!

Alternatively, here are some free online resources you can access at home:

Website	Features
Mathsframe	Specifically replicates the 6-second MTC format used in schools.
Timestables.co.uk	Offers a 5-step plan to master each table and a "Check" simulator.
Oxford Owl	Provides free tips, activity sheets, and advice for parents.
Hit the Button	Great for building speed and confidence in a high-energy way.

Humanities

History – How have children's lives changed?

Children will use sources to extract information, explore Tudor and Victorian childhood, who Lord Shaftesbury was, leisure time and diseases.

Why not discuss how life has changed since you were a child or grandparents!

DT

Mechanisms – making a slingshot car.

What toy cars are there? What models can people buy and make?

PE

We are very lucky to have our PE lessons taught by a specialist coach this term.

In Wednesday morning, the children will be learning all the skills of cricket and putting them into practice.

In the afternoon, they will be taking part in gymnastics sessions.

ICT

Animation.

E-Safety – self-image and online relationships.

PSHE

Being me in my world.

Further Details

All logins your child needs for websites are stuck in the front of your child's reading record. If there are any problems, please let me know.



Homework: set on Monday, Due the following Monday. This will consist of spellings, reading and Maths (times table practice).

Reading: We visit the library every Friday. Your child will bring home two books: one is a reading for pleasure book of their choice, and one is set at an appropriate reading level for them. Reading records and books should be kept in their bags and brought to school each day. Please read at least 3 times a week (from Friday to Friday) and have an adult fill in and sign the reading record. Reading records will be checked each Friday.

Communication

For any quick messages, an adult is around each day at drop-off or pick-up, or if needed you can arrange to have a 1:1 meeting (please speak to Miss MacFarlane or the office about this). Please do speak to an adult if your child is being collected by another adult, other than the usual adults, especially if they are going home with a friend. We will not allow your child to go home with another adult, unless we have received confirmation from you.

With thanks,

Miss MacFarlane
Year 4 teacher