



Year 3/4 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring Term 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Spring term! We hope you have all had a fun filled Christmas break. We are very excited for the learning opportunities that have been carefully planned this term. Please find below a summary of Years 3/4's main learning areas for this term along with some general reminders.

English

As writers, we will be developing their reading, writing, and spoken language skills through a rich and engaging curriculum built around two high-quality texts, *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister and *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin, which together allow children to explore both imaginative storytelling and meaningful real-life experiences. Through *Winter's Child*, pupils will immerse themselves in a beautifully written narrative inspired by folklore and wintery landscapes, using the text as a model to develop descriptive language, vivid settings, and emotional depth in their own writing, while *Coming to England* will introduce children to an autobiographical non-fiction text that explores themes of identity, belonging, resilience, and migration, helping pupils to understand how real-life experiences can be communicated powerfully through writing.

Across the term, children will explicitly learn key grammar and punctuation skills appropriate to their age, including the use of fronted adverbials to clearly indicate time, place, and manner at the beginning of sentences, which will help them add variety and clarity to their writing, as well as subordination, where they will learn how to use subordinating conjunctions such as *because*, *when*, *if*, and *although* to create more complex sentences that explain reasons, add detail, and show relationships between ideas. Pupils will also focus on the accurate and effective use of speech in writing, learning how to punctuate dialogue correctly using inverted commas, commas, and reporting clauses, and how to present conversations that reveal character and move the story forward. Alongside fiction writing, a significant part of the term will be devoted to understanding and producing non-fiction texts, particularly linked to *Coming to England*, where pupils will explore key features of non-fiction writing such as headings, subheadings, paragraphs organised around a main idea, factual language, and the use of clear, informative sentences, enabling them to write with purpose and awareness of audience.

Throughout all units, children will be encouraged to plan, draft, edit, and improve their work, developing confidence in checking spelling, punctuation, and grammar, and making thoughtful choices about vocabulary. Reading comprehension, discussion, and oral storytelling will support writing outcomes, ensuring that pupils not only learn technical skills but also enjoy English as a creative and meaningful subject, while building empathy, curiosity, and pride in their own developing abilities as readers and writers.

As readers, our learning for Spring term 1 will be planned around the text, 'Operation Gadgetman and in Autumn 2 will be planned around the text, 'Future Hero: Race to Fire Mountain by Remi Blackwoodby. Through whole class reading lessons, we will focus our learning around three core skills: vocabulary, retrieval and inference. We will also develop our prediction skills. Children in Year 4 will be challenged further with mastering explain and summarise type questions. We will also develop our reading fluency too.

Maths

This term in mathematics, we will be developing their understanding and confidence with multiplication, division, and fractions through a structured and practical approach that builds fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving skills. A strong focus will be placed on multiplication and division facts, particularly recalling times tables up to 12×12 , as these form the foundation for much of the learning in Key Stage 2. Pupils will practise multiplying and dividing using a range of strategies, including equal groups, arrays, number lines, and formal written methods, helping them to understand not just how calculations work, but why they work. Children will also explore the relationship between multiplication and division, learning how one operation can be used to check the other, and how fact families support mental maths and efficiency.

In fractions, pupils will build on prior knowledge by learning to recognise, represent, and compare fractions, including understanding equivalent fractions and how fractions relate to whole numbers. They will explore fractions of amounts and quantities, using practical resources and visual models such as fraction strips, bar models, and diagrams to support conceptual understanding. Children will also learn to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator, developing accuracy and confidence while explaining their thinking using mathematical language.

Across all areas, pupils will be encouraged to apply their knowledge to real-life contexts and problem-solving activities, allowing them to reason, explain methods, and choose appropriate strategies. Mathematical vocabulary will be emphasised so that pupils can clearly articulate their understanding, justify answers, and engage in discussion with peers. Through regular practice, hands-on activities, and supportive guidance, we will strengthen their number sense and develop a positive attitude towards mathematics, ensuring they are well prepared for more advanced learning in the future.

There will also be a focus on learning their times tables weekly. Year 4 will have the Multiplication Table Check in June 2025.

Science

This term in science, pupils will be learning about the exciting topics of light and plants, developing their understanding through practical investigations and thoughtful discussion. In the light unit, children will explore how light helps us to see, learning that light travels in straight lines and can be reflected by different surfaces. They will investigate how shadows are formed, how their size can change, and why we need light to see objects. Pupils will also learn about sources of light, including natural and man-made examples, and understand the importance of protecting their eyes from bright light.

In the plants unit, children will build on prior knowledge to learn about the structure and function of plants, including roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. They will investigate what plants need to grow and stay healthy, such as water, light, air, and nutrients, and explore how plants reproduce and disperse seeds. Through observations and simple experiments, pupils will develop scientific enquiry skills while deepening their understanding of the natural world.

P.E.

Year 3/4 will have PE sessions every Wednesday (Outdoor - POSH) and Friday (Indoor). O'Keefe Class will have PE on Thursday and Friday.

Other PE sessions may arise throughout the week so please ensure your child has their PE kit in school at all times and are prepared for the unpredictable winter weather. **PE kit is a plain white t-shirt or polo shirt, black or navy shorts, black or navy joggers and an outdoor jumper** (when the weather requires it), outdoor trainers (these must be different shoes to the ones your child wears to school) and a water bottle. Dojo points will be rewarded for correct uniform. Earrings need to be removed at home, if your child cannot remove them by themselves in school. Long-hair must be tied back. PE is a statutory requirement of the National Curriculum.

Homework

Spellings will be shared on Friday when the children's homework is sent home. We expect the children to learn spellings rules at home and in school. They will also be expected to use the spellings in their writing. Whilst we will not be formally assessing spellings through a test, these will be monitored informally through the curriculum and application.

For **Maths** homework, the children need to complete 15 minutes TT rock stars (<https://trockstars.com/>) three times a week. In addition, children are required to practise multiplication tables and division facts to aid rapid recall. TT Rockstars will be monitored weekly, and we will have class competition and individual celebrations around these. Times table recall is fundamental to many aspects of mathematics and being able to recall these fluently will significantly support other concepts in maths.

Reading: In Years 3/4 children need to read 3-5 times per week. Dojo points will be rewarded for 3, 4 and 5 times a week achievement. This will be checked on your child's reading day. You will be notified of this day through Dojo. When the children read at home, it should be for the equivalent of at least 10 minutes and comprehension developed through questioning. They need to complete their reading record each time they read. We would very much appreciate you listening to your child read and discussing their book with them. Parents/carers should write a comment in their book, and we request that you sign your child's reading record book too. Without a signature, the reward system cannot be awarded. Reading regularly at home will really help them to progress in reading and writing.

Your child will bring two books home: a reading for pleasure book and an Accelerated Reader book. Every time your child completes a book, they will take a quiz on AR (Accelerated Reader) where we can track their comprehension progress. Once complete, they will change their book. Your child's reading diary will let you know what their reading ZPD (level) is. Once children have quizzed 3 times at 100%, they will move up a level within their ZPD.

We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, thank you in advance for your continued support.

From the Year 3 and 4 team.

Seurat Class: Mrs Smith/Mrs Duddy, Mrs Hayes and Mrs Whitehouse.

O'Keefe Class: Mrs Davies, Ms Burroughs and Mrs Filchev.

Matisse Class: Mr Offredi, Mrs Witt, Mrs Crofts and Ms Rhodes.

Year 3/4 Topic – Spring Term 2026

Geography

As geographers, we will learn about Settlements in the second half term. Here we will about settlements and why people choose to live in certain places. We will explore different types of settlements, such as hamlets, villages, towns, and cities. Additionally, we will learn about human and physical features, land use, and services. We also study how settlements grow and change over time and compare different settlements in the UK and around the world.



History

As historians, throughout Spring term we will learn about Ancient Egypt. We will study where Egypt is and why the River Nile was important. We will learn about pharaohs, pyramids, mummification, gods and goddesses, and daily life. We will explore how Egyptians wrote using hieroglyphs and find out about jobs, homes, clothes, food, and beliefs about the afterlife. We also compare Ancient Egypt with life today.



Spanish

In Spanish during Autumn term will focus our learning on Spain, numbers 0-20, age, colours and numbers 20-50.



PSHE

As citizens, we will develop our knowledge of 'Economic Well-being'. Here we will explore issues around wants and needs, budgeting, saving and spending habits. During the second half term, we will delve into 'Citizenship, focusing our learning on recycling and reusing, contributing groups in society, how democracy works in our local area, rules and consequences, both in school and at home, understanding the UN conventions of rights of the child and understanding human rights.

PE

As sportsmen/women, during the Spring term, we will have indoor and outdoor PE. Our indoor PE will be learning how to play Dodgeball and Fitness. During outdoor PE, POSH will teach us skills and tactics around Netball and Hockey

Design Technology

As designers, we will develop our designing, making and evaluating skills through building pop-up books. We would love to share our learning with you and you will be invited in to join us. More information will follow on Dojo in due course.

Computing

In computing we will learn about e-safety throughout the unit. We will also explore the Journey of inside a computer, and we will learn knowledge and skills in computer databases.

Religion and Worldviews

Being world aware, our two key questions this term are: 'Are all religions equal?' and 'What happens if we do wrong?'. Through these questions we will explore: Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Humanist, Sikh, Muslim and Shinto.

Music

As musicians we will be learning and developing our musical skills through Jazz and singing technique.



Art

As artists this term we will study the unit, 'Craft and Design: Ancient Egyptian Scrolls'. Here we will explore, develop and investigate style, pattern and characteristics of Egyptian art. We will use skills in the style of ancient civilisation and learn to make our own paper.

