

Year 3/4 Autumn

Curriculum Newsletter

2026

SCIENCE

Energy & Electricity

(Autumn 1)

Explore electrical appliances, build circuits, learn about switches, conductors and insulators, and investigate how energy works.

Rocks & Soils

(Autumn 2)

Investigate rocks, fossils and soils, learn how they are formed and explore the important role of earthworms.

Singing in loops, reading rhythmic patterns and creating our own rhythms using body percussion and notation.

HISTORY

What is the legacy of the Ancient Greeks?

Discover Greek gods, Athens and Sparta, democracy, philosophy and the amazing legacy the Ancient Greeks left behind.

GEOGRAPHY

Where does our food come from?

Explore where our food comes from, biomes, food journeys (including cocoa), trade and how we can make sustainable choices.

ART

Developing Drawing Skills

Use observation, shading, line, shape and tone to create amazing drawings inspired by The Sun.

DT

Electrical Systems: Torches

Design, make and evaluate a working torch with a switch. Explore electrical products and how they work.

PSHE

Connecting with Others & Taking Care of My Mind and Body

Build positive relationships, understand emotions, make healthy choices and look after our minds and bodies.

COMPUTING

Learn to code using Scratch! Create and remix animations, test, debug and improve our code.

MFL - SPANISH

Learn the Spanish alphabet, greetings and words for pets. ¡Hablemos español!

PE

Swimming & Football

Swimming & Football

READING

Year 4 will be exploring Charlotte's Web through fluency, comprehension and VIPERS activities.

MATHS

Using Oak Academy, we will build on our skills in place value, column method, times tables, measures and perimeter.

PE THIS TERM

SWIMMING (INDOOR)

Starting Wednesday 23rd September every Wednesday

Children need: swimming costume, towel and hair up.
Swimming hat and goggles optional.

FOOTBALL (OUTDOOR)

Delivered by POSH Starting this week

Develop skills, teamwork and fitness while having lots of fun!

HOMEWORK

- ★ Read daily for 10-15 minutes and enjoy books together.
- ★ Practise times tables on TT Rock Stars.
- ★ Learn weekly spellings (sent home each week).
- ★ Other homework tasks will be explained once introduced.

HOW TO CONTACT US

We're here to help! Please get in touch:

- Message us on Class Dojo
- Email the school office
- Speak to a TA on the door in the morning

We will be in contact with you.

A very warm welcome back to all our Year 3/4 children and families as we begin the Autumn Term at Burrowmoor Primary Academy. We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer break filled with fun, laughter and special memories. We are delighted to see everyone back, ready for an exciting term of learning, discovery and new experiences. The Year 3/4 team is looking forward to helping every child grow in confidence, develop new skills and achieve their very best as we embark on another fantastic year together. Below you will all of the learning we are planning to cover over this term.

This term, the children will be taught slightly differently for some subjects. To ensure that teaching is carefully tailored to each year group's curriculum, children will be split into Year 3 and Year 4 groups for Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Maths. For all other subjects, including Writing, children will continue to learn in their mixed Year 3/4 classes. This approach allows us to provide targeted teaching where needed while continuing to enjoy the many benefits of learning together across the two year groups.

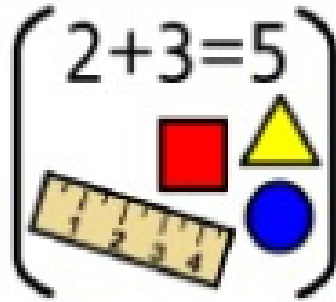
Reading



Year 3 and 4

This term, Year 4 will be exploring *Charlotte's Web*, year 3 will read – *Bad Panda*. Each week, children will take part in two fluency sessions to develop their reading accuracy, expression and confidence, two extended reading lessons to deepen their understanding of the text, and one close reading lesson where they will focus on answering VIPERS questions using evidence and quotations from the book. Through this approach, children will strengthen their comprehension skills while enjoying E.B. White's much-loved story and its memorable characters.

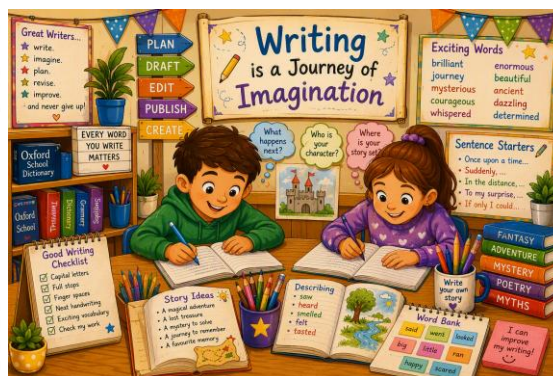
Maths



Year 3 and 4

This term, we will be using Oak National Academy resources to support our Maths lessons, helping children to develop confidence and understanding through clear explanations and engaging activities. In year 3 we will learn to use column method for addition and subtraction. In year 4 we will revisit and build upon key skills, including the column method for addition and subtraction, while continuing to improve times table fluency so that children can recall multiplication and division facts quickly and accurately. Pupils will also develop their understanding of place value in numbers up to 1,000, learn how to convert between different units of measure, and explore perimeter, calculating and comparing the distance around shapes. Our focus throughout the term will be on securing strong mathematical foundations and encouraging children to explain their reasoning and apply their knowledge in a variety of contexts.

Writing



Year 3 and 4

During this first half term, we will follow Grammarsaurus, learning the Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar (PVPg) — an approach that focuses on the foundations of

writing: grammar and punctuation. Punctuation and grammar are the place value of writing. They are the building blocks of successful writers. Without a secure grasp of them, children often struggle with sentence structure, making it much harder for them to produce cohesive stories, letters and reports that readers can understand and enjoy.

During Autumn 2, our Year 3 and 4 children will be exploring the magical story **Leon and the Place Between** by Angela McAllister. Using this beautifully illustrated text as inspiration, the children will develop their skills in creating imaginative characters and settings, using rich vocabulary and carefully chosen details to build atmosphere, mood and engage the reader. They will learn to organise related ideas into paragraphs and develop increasingly varied and complex sentences using a wider range of conjunctions, including *when*, *if*, *because* and *although*. We will continue to strengthen important grammar skills, including accurate verb forms, Standard English and the correct use of apostrophes for possession. As the unit develops, children will use their learning to write from a character's point of view, maintaining the first person and past tense consistently. They will organise events chronologically, create effective openings that communicate thoughts and feelings, and finish their writing with personal reflections, hopes or concerns for the future. Throughout the unit, there will be a strong emphasis on developing children's confidence as creative writers and encouraging them to make thoughtful vocabulary and sentence choices to bring their writing to life.

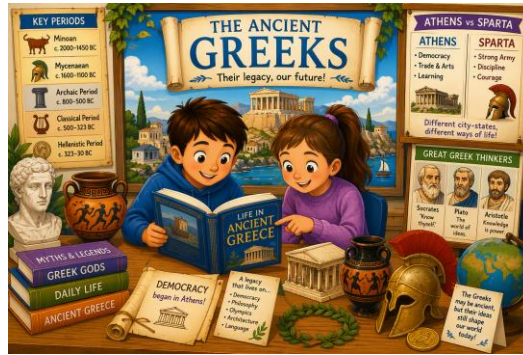
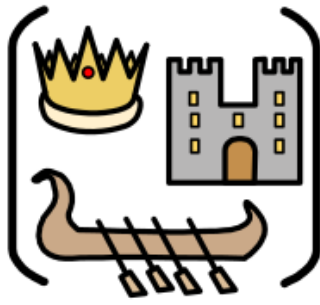


Science

In Science this half term, children will be learning about **Energy and Electricity**. Children will explore everyday electrical appliances, identifying whether they are mains or battery powered, and investigate how simple electrical circuits work. They will learn about switches, conductors and insulators, circuit symbols, and how energy is transferred within a circuit. Pupils will also examine how adding more bulbs affects brightness and discuss the importance of working safely with electricity. Through practical investigations, children will develop their scientific enquiry skills by drawing circuit diagrams, recording results, planning fair tests, posing their own questions, and explaining their findings using scientific vocabulary.

In Science during Autumn 2, We will be learning about **Rocks and Soils**. Children will investigate different types of rocks, exploring their appearance, properties and uses. They will discover how rocks are broken down over time, learn about the formation of fossils, and find out how palaeontologists use fossils to learn about the past. Pupils will also study different soil types, understand the important role of earthworms in maintaining healthy soil, and explore how soil is made up of different layers. Through a range of practical investigations, children will develop their scientific enquiry skills by observing rocks closely, carrying out tests, recording results in charts, researching fossil formation, and analysing evidence to draw conclusions about the natural world.

History



In **History** this term, we will explore the fascinating question: **What is the legacy of the Ancient Greeks?** Children will learn about the key features and periods of Ancient Greek civilisation, investigate the beliefs and stories surrounding Greek gods, and compare life in the city-states of **Athens and Sparta**. They will discover how Athenian democracy influenced modern government and explore the ideas of famous Greek philosophers. Through research, discussion and historical enquiry, pupils will develop their understanding of the lasting impact of Ancient Greece, identifying the many ways Greek achievements in areas such as democracy, philosophy, language, sport and the arts continue to influence our lives today.



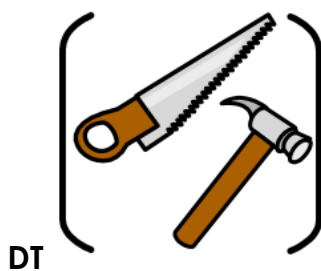
Geography

In **Geography** this term, Year 4 will be exploring the question: **Where does our food come from?** Children will learn how food is produced in different parts of the world and why certain crops grow best in particular biomes. They will investigate the environmental impact of food production, consider ways to make more sustainable choices, and explore the benefits and challenges of importing food. Pupils will follow the journey of a cocoa bean from farm to chocolate bar, gaining an understanding of responsible trade and global connections. Through map work, data collection and geographical enquiry, children will develop their skills in locating countries, measuring distances, conducting interviews and analysing data to draw conclusions about the food we eat and the world around us.



Art

In **Art** this term, Year 4 will focus on **developing their drawing skills** through observation, sketching and creative design. Children will learn how to carefully observe shapes, patterns and textures before using simple shapes as a starting point for their drawings. They will practise a range of techniques, including shading, mark-making and the use of tone to create light, dark and texture within their artwork. Pupils will also explore digital art tools, learning how to apply line, shape and shading digitally before saving and presenting their work. Drawing inspiration from **The Sun**, children will combine their new skills and materials to create imaginative and detailed pieces of art that showcase their developing creativity and confidence



In **Design and Technology** this term, Year 4 will be exploring **electrical systems** by designing and making their own torches. Children will investigate a range of electrical products and consider how they are used in everyday life. They will learn how torches work, identify the key features that make a torch effective, and explore the importance of switches in electrical circuits. Using their knowledge from Science, pupils will design, create and evaluate a functioning torch, ensuring it meets both the success criteria and their own design specifications. This exciting project will develop their problem-solving, designing and making skills while encouraging creativity and practical application of electrical knowledge.



In **PSHE** this term, Year 4 will focus on **Connecting with Others** and **How Can I Take Care of My Mind and Body?** Children will explore the importance of positive relationships, learning how to communicate effectively, show empathy, work collaboratively and build supportive friendships. They will also develop an understanding of how to look after their physical and mental wellbeing by discussing healthy lifestyles, the importance of exercise, sleep and nutrition, and strategies for managing feelings and emotions. Through discussion, reflection and practical activities, pupils will build confidence, resilience and self-awareness, helping them to make positive choices and maintain healthy relationships with themselves and others.



PE

The children will begin **swimming lessons on Wednesday 23rd September**, which will take place every Wednesday as part of our indoor PE curriculum. Children will need to bring a **swimming costume or trunks, a towel, and ensure long hair is tied up**. If they wish, they may also bring a **swimming hat and goggles**. Our outdoor PE lessons will be delivered by **POSH**, and this half term pupils will be developing their skills through **football**, beginning this week. These sessions will focus on improving teamwork, coordination, ball control and overall fitness while encouraging enjoyment of sport and physical activity.



Music

In **Music** this term, we will continue developing their understanding of **rhythm and pulse** through body percussion, rhythm reading and group performance. Children will learn to copy and create their own body percussion patterns while maintaining a steady beat. They will explore musical notation, recognising and using **crotchets, paired quavers, minims and rests**, and will learn how many beats each note is worth. Pupils will compose, perform and notate their own four-beat rhythms, checking that their rhythms add up correctly and performing them confidently within a group. Through listening carefully and playing alongside others, children will develop their ability to maintain their own rhythm while hearing different rhythms being performed at the same time, building both their musical confidence and performance skills.



Computing

In **Computing** this term, Year 4 will be learning how to use **Scratch**, a coding application that allows children to create animations and interactive projects using block-based programming. Pupils will explore different code blocks, make predictions about what they do, and test their ideas through practical activities. They will create simple animations by combining motion, speech and timing commands before learning how to remix and improve existing projects. Children will develop their problem-solving skills by testing and debugging their code, identifying and fixing errors to make their animations work successfully. Through planning, creating and evaluating their work, pupils will gain confidence in coding while developing their creativity, logical thinking and computational skills.



MFL

In **Spanish** this term, Year 4 will begin developing their language skills by learning the **Spanish alphabet**, practising pronunciation and building confidence when speaking aloud. Children will learn a range of **greetings and simple conversational phrases**, enabling them to introduce themselves and communicate politely with others. They will also explore vocabulary related to **pets**, learning how to name different animals and talk about the pets they have or would like to have. Through songs, games, speaking activities and written tasks, pupils will develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills while gaining a greater appreciation of Spanish language and culture.



Homework

To support learning at home, we ask that children:

- Read daily for 10-15 minutes and, where possible, discuss what they have read with an adult.
- Regularly practise their times tables using TT Rock Stars to help improve fluency and confidence.
- Learn their weekly spellings, which will be shared with children throughout the term.
- Complete any additional homework tasks, which will be explained and sent home once they have been introduced in class.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home. Regular practice of these key skills makes a huge difference to children's confidence and progress across the curriculum.



We are looking forward to an exciting and successful year ahead and thank you for your continued support. We value the strong partnership between home and school and encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns or information you would like to share.

You can contact us through **Class Dojo**, by emailing the **school office**, or by speaking to one of the **teaching assistants at the classroom door in the morning**, who will ensure that any messages are passed on to us promptly. A member of the team will then be in contact with you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

The Year 3/4 Team ☀️