

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to Year 4!

I hope that you all had a wonderful break and your children are ready to start another great term of learning. The information below sets out a summary of what Apollos class will be learning this term. You will also be able to find 'Knowledge Organisers' for each subject on our class page which will give you a lot more detail about exactly what we will be covering.



Please continue to support your child at home by reading with them for at least 10 minutes every day and signing their reading record. Please also help your child to practise their tables and their Maths Magicians number facts. The [National Year 4 Multiplication Check](#) will take place in the Summer term and we will provide you with more details about this at a [parent meeting on Wednesday 4th February at 3.15pm](#).

Spring Term Learning

In **English**, we will be developing our 'writing to inform' skills by looking at 'memoirs' and exploring texts such as 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. We will also be working on our persuasion skills as we look at several beautiful books about different locations around the world and write our own travel leaflets. In the second half of the term, we will continue to practise our writing skills by learning to plan our writing, to use a wide range of sentence structures, to use paragraphs effectively and to use words and phrases that really capture a reader's imagination. We will be looking at the narrative text 'Leon and the Place Between' as well as exploring Haiku poetry.

In **maths**, we will continue our sequence of learning and this term will look at different units of measure and how to convert between them. We will also look at how to present and read data, as well as exploring perimeter and other properties of shape. We will continue to work with decimal numbers and will also explore fractions. Please continue to support your child at home with times tables learning because this is so crucial to their understanding of all of our maths topics.

In **science** this term, we will begin by looking at 'Sound'. We are going to be exploring what sound is, how it is produced, and how it travels from one place to another. We have a great set of experiments lined up to help us do this. Later on in the term, we will look at 'Electricity' where we will explore simple circuits and how to use them.

In **history** this term, we will be studying the Anglo-Saxons and looking at who this group of people was and how we know what was important to them. We will look at how the departure of the Romans allowed the Anglo-Saxons to settle in Britain. We will look at where they lived, which gods they worshiped and why they eventually converted to Christianity. We will also study the Sutton Hoo burial and explore how historians use primary and secondary sources of evidence to understand the lives of people who lived many hundreds of years ago.

Geography lessons this term will focus on sustainability. We will explore what living sustainably actually means and learn about renewable energy resources such as solar- and wind-power. We will also think about what we can do to make our school more sustainable.

In **French**, we will start the Spring term by looking at the topic of 'En Classe' and we will be learning to say and spell ten common classroom objects as well as learning how to explain what is in our bag or pencil case. We will also look at the topic of the weather and learn how to talk about the weather in French.

RE lessons this term will be focused initially on Buddhism and we will explore the question 'Is it possible for everyone to be happy?' After half term, we will focus on Christianity by looking at the enquiry question 'Is forgiveness always possible for Christians?'

In **computing** this term, the children will create programmes by planning, modifying and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. In the second half of the term, they will be considering how and why people and computer collect data over time, we will explore how computers can use sensors to monitor the environment.

In **art**, year 4 will start by looking at sculpture and 3D art where they will work with a variety of media such as wire, found objects and recycled materials as well as more traditional sculpting and modelling to create three dimensional artworks. We will be ending the term with a painting and mixed media unit.

In **DT**, the children will be working with textiles and will be creating a personalised book sleeve. We will be thinking carefully about a personalised design, measuring and cutting fabric, using stitching to join fabric

and incorporating a fastening into our final product. We will also be making a torch using some of the knowledge and skills we have learned about circuits in science.

The children's **PE** sessions will continue to be taught on a Monday afternoon by Mr Stevenson and on Friday afternoons by me. We will cover a variety of games and skills including a unit where they will explore ways of moving to different types of music, as well as looking at fitness, dodgeball and tennis. Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on Tuesdays and Thursday and will remain in it all day so will not need uniform to change into. **Swimming** lessons will take place in the summer term.

We will continue following the Jigsaw scheme of work for Personal, Social and Health Education (**PSHE**). In the Spring term we will first look at our dreams and goals and then in the second half of the term we will move on to exploring how we can keep ourselves healthy through healthy eating as well as looking after our mental health.

PPA

My weekly planning, preparation and assessment time will be covered by Mr Stevenson (PE) and Mrs Campbell-Pugh (Art).

Home Learning

Home learning is especially important in Year 4 as children grow in independence. Home learning will involve completing a selection of activities based on our learning from the previous and current week.

Reading is a vital part of home learning and we ask that you continue to **ensure that your child reads for at least ten minutes every day**. It is important that your child's **reading record is signed by an adult daily** and that your child's reading record and book come into school every day. Please talk to your child about what they have read. On our class page, you will find documents to support these conversations at home as well as a list of recommended reads for Year 4 children that are suitably challenging and can be read in addition to your child's school reading book.

Please also **practise your child's 'Maths Magicians' facts with them for 10 minutes a day**. Maths Magicians focuses on supporting pupils to learn key mathematical facts that are essential if pupils are to understand more complex concepts. Children across the school are expected to work towards knowing and remembering the key facts for their year group, which can be found on the Maths Star of our class page on the school website. Of course, children will be taught these facts in class, but it is important that they practise these at home too. There are 12 stages for the children to work through each term, with a quiz each Friday. Successful completion of quizzes will result in prizes being awarded in our weekly celebration assembly.

Optional additional home-learning includes practising times tables (your child's Times Tables Rockstars log-in is in the front of their homework book) and handwriting. Further information and links to relevant websites can be found on our class page. There, you will also find a document that shows the stages of development in mathematical reasoning; it includes questions that you could ask your child at home to help them think more deeply about mathematical problems they may encounter in the real world as well as in their home learning.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

In June, your child will participate in the national Multiplication Tables Check. This is designed to determine whether children can recall their times tables fluently. We will be doing times tables practice in class but additional practice at home will help your child to master their times tables more effectively. We will give you further information about this check at a **parent meeting in the Year 4 classroom at 3.15 on Wednesday 4th February**.

It is going to be a great term with lots of exciting learning opportunities. Please see the school's web site for key dates and our class page for regular updates on what is happening in class.

With kind regards,

Mrs Rowson