

Autumn Term in Year 4



Welcome back! We hope you have had time to rest and relax over the Summer holidays and are returning to school full of beans and ready to learn!

Over the Summer, Mr. Shortland welcomed a new dog to his family and fed meerkats at a wildlife park. Mrs. Smith enjoyed lots of days out at the beach especially the fish and chips and ice cream!

Be sure to keep visiting our class page on the school website to see our fantastic work and comments made by the children. <https://www.stthomasacademy.co.uk/>

Remember to follow us on Twitter too- @MrsSmithST and @NS_StThomas as well as @StThomasBoston and @InfinityAcad for updates on future Trust events.



This year we will teach each subject discretely, each having a key question that we will answer over the term. Each lesson will allow us to build knowledge and understanding to enable us to independently answer the question using examples and evidence from what is taught. Make sure you check the class pages to follow our learning journey for each unit of work. The spider diagram in this newsletter gives you a taster of each subject, but the website will give you more information.

School Visit

We look forward to enhancing our learning in History with a visit to The Collection in Lincoln. Here, the children will understand what life was like in the Anglo-Saxon era. The Collection is free to enter and offers an excellent insight into Lincolnshire's history and links to Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. For more information, please look at their website for what they have to offer. <https://www.thecollectionmuseum.com/>

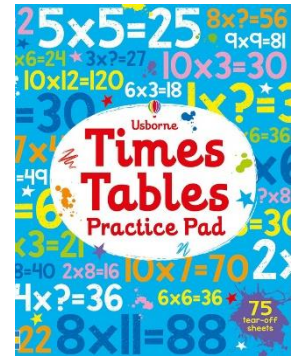


Class Worship

Year Four have the pleasure of going first with leading Class Worship for the school. 4N- Hope Class will go first on 12th October and 4A- Courage Class on 19th October. You will be welcomed into school to watch your child on the relevant date, further details will be sent out closer to the time.

Times Tables never go out of fashion!

Being able to recall times tables facts ($6 \times 5 = 30$), and the related division facts ($30 / 5 = 6$) is vital for many areas of learning in Maths. Children who practise their times tables find learning in Maths much easier than those who struggle to recall them. Regular practise with family at home makes a great difference – try asking your child times table questions while driving in the car or while walking to school. In June, all Year Four pupils will sit a times tables test so we will spend lots of time this year focusing on them. We invite you to our Parent Times Table workshop at 2.30pm on Tuesday 20th September. See the separate flyer for more details.



Reading Books These need to be in school **daily**. In Year 4 children are allowed to change their books as often as needed. In line with the curriculum, we suggest that children keep their books for longer and really get to know it well, they do not need to rush through it. This helps develop your child's comprehension skills. We expect children to read as often as possible at home, ideally this should be for at least 10 minutes daily, but at least four times per week. Please write the pages read and sign to say you have heard them. Remember to let us know anything else your child has enjoyed reading at home. **Every time your child reads at home, they will receive a house point.**

In order to help your child develop their reading skills, it would be very helpful if you could discuss the books they are reading with your child. Ask them questions to make sure they have understood the story, ask them to predict what might happen next and why characters have acted the way they have. Make links with other books and traditional tales they may have read.



Homework is important and we expect everyone to complete it and hand it in on time. It helps consolidate learning and build up your child's confidence. Homework will be set every Friday and should be completed and handed in by Wednesday. If you have any concerns with this, please see your class teacher.

Spellings will be set on a Friday and tested on a Friday. Learning spellings is not just about being able to recall them for a test. The children need to practise spellings in order to remember them long-term for use in their writing as well. Spellings are sent home on a sheet and do not need to be returned to school, and should be practised regularly. We advise children use a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check approach as set out on the spelling sheet. Other ways to help children learn include chanting the letters, finding words within words, and circling the letter combinations they find tricky. This makes the learning more exciting and memorable. Our spellings this year build up on the rules learnt in Year 3 and we will be revisiting these.



Year Four Curriculum Overview

Art

How is movement portrayed in drawings?
Children will explore the artist Rembrandt as we understand his work on gestural drawing. The children will be focusing on techniques such as form, space, texture colour, line, shape and pattern.

English

We have begun Year 4 by consolidating our knowledge of noun phrases and how we can make them more exciting by adding adjectives. We dive straight into the world of 'Beowulf' written by Michael Morpurgo, who battles a horrific beast named Grendel as he tries to bring Grendel's reign of terror to the end. We will create our own wanted poster, write newspaper articles and diary entries documenting the events that take place.

Science

Where does a puddle go?
This term we work as Chemists focusing on materials and changes of state. We will identify solids, liquids and gases, their properties and particle make up. This will support us to explain the water cycle and the different changes of state.

Computing

**What is cyberbullying?
What is the internet?**
This term, we are going to look at what cyberbullying is and how it happens followed by how computers are connected by networks.

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History

How did the Anglo-Saxons develop England?
Children will explore what happened in England when most of the Romans left which will identify where they settled and why. This will lead us to discover more about the first Kings of Britain and how the heptarchy was created, leading us to understand more about their religions and the introduction of Christianity.

R.E

Why is grace important to Christians?
In RE, we are going to be looking at what happens in Holy Week and how it is celebrated in churches.

Mathematics

Our Mathematics learning this is focusing on place value and identifying the individual values of 4-digit numbers along with being able to round to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 before we look at the four main operations.

We will continue to practice and develop our times tables.

PE

**Fitness
How does fitness improve health?**
We will be focusing on developing our Fitness skills through a series of exercises.
**Tag Rugby
What is more important: personal or team performance?**
We will be focusing on rules of the game and techniques to run and pass.

Music

Why do composers choose certain musical instruments?
In Music, we are going to be looking at dynamics and the difference between major and minor chords.

PSHE

Is it ok not to like someone?
Our focus is on building relationships with others. We will reflect on what it means to be a good friend both in person and online.

PE

PE lessons will be on a Monday morning and a Thursday afternoon. Please make sure both indoor and outdoor PE KIT is in school every day so that it is always available,

If you want to support your child further please explore the following websites. A huge range of educational websites are available online, please check that any that your child uses are suitable for their age. Remember - a great way of supporting your child's learning (and a fun one) is to play the online games with them.

<http://www.sumdog.com> (Maths)

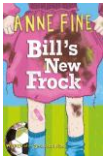
<https://play.spellingshed.com/#/login> (Spelling)

<http://www.math-exercises-for-kids.com/math-4.htm> (Maths)

<http://www.earlybritishkingdoms.com/kids> (Anglo-Saxons)

The Year 4 team are very excited to continue to help your children to reach their potential this year, and we appreciate your support across the curriculum. Please do speak to us if you have ideas, questions or concerns about your child. We are always interested in activities children take part in outside of school, so it would be lovely to see any certificates or awards your child receives. Remember to inform of us of any change in circumstance - little or big. It can really affect the behaviour and feelings of your child and we want to offer support as fully as possible.

Reading Recommendations



A great book for Year 4's is Bill's New Frock- we have copies in school if you'd like to borrow them. One morning Bill wakes up to find he is a girl, Mum dresses him in a pink dress, can his day get any worse? Bill soon discovers things are very different for girls.

Exploring what it is like for children who are fostered and moved from home to home. Perry is soon welcomed into a loving family and quickly makes lots of friends. Mrs Smith really enjoyed reading this and thinks that many of you will do too. Please ask if you'd like to borrow a copy!



Mrs A Smith, Mr Shortland, Mrs P Smith and Miss Kaye