



Hawthorn Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 2026

Dear Year 4 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4! We hope you had a fantastic summer break. We are looking forward to a brilliant term ahead and can't wait to see you at parents' evening soon.

Staying in Touch:

For any quick queries, Mrs Schilling and I are always available at the door in the mornings or at home time. If you have a more detailed query or need to provide important information, please contact the school office, and they will gladly pass it on to us.

An overview of our week: The year 4 teachers are Miss Jenkinson and Mrs Schilling on Wednesdays.

Our learning in Autumn one:	
Maths	We have made a fantastic start with our new 'Ark Maths' scheme. After successfully tackling 'Reasoning with Large Numbers', the class is now mastering 'Addition and Subtraction'. The children are doing a brilliant job of using key subject vocabulary during our lesson 'talk tasks' and showing off their strategy work in their exercise books.
Writing	This half term, our writing has focused on e-safety adverts and diary entries. The children really enjoyed exploring how to use slogans to emphasise staying safe online. They also loved learning about and using colloquialisms in their diary entries, which were written all about our Friday swimming trips!
Reading	For reading this term, we have spent time exploring <i>The Queen's Nose</i> , understanding key vocabulary and working on the core comprehension skills of inference and prediction. Our next book, <i>The Girl Who Stole an Elephant</i> , has already proven to be a class favourite, and we look forward to finishing it to find out more about Chaya's journey.
Science	Our Year 4 scientists have been exploring how living things are grouped by identifying the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates. The children will be creating and using classification keys to name specific plants and animals in our local environment. We will also investigate how natural and human-made changes to environments can pose dangers to local wildlife.
History	This term, we have started our exciting new history topic on the Anglo-Saxons. The children have been fantastic historians, confidently drawing on their prior knowledge and making excellent links to previous topics. A key focus has been mastering subject vocabulary and answering specific enquiry questions—a wonderful way for them to showcase all of their brilliant learning!
RE	In Religious Education, our focus has been on Christianity, specifically exploring Jesus' teachings through the story of 'The Good Samaritan'. We also had a wonderful visit to Northborough Church for our annual harvest service, where the children celebrated the season beautifully.
PSHE	In PSHE this term, our focus has been 'Rules, Rights and Responsibilities'. The children have spent time exploring each concept, understanding what they mean, and considering how they apply to home life, school, and our wider community.
Computing	In computing, our key focus has been E-safety, which linked perfectly with our writing topic. They have explored ways to remain safe online and how to gain support when needed. We have now ventured onto Scratch programming, developing our skills further using devices.

Music	For music this term, we are using the glockenspiels. We have been learning and rehearsing five songs. They have been working very hard on these skills and it has paid off!
Art	In art this term, we have been developing our shading techniques, firstly trialing 3D shapes, then still- life objects such as flowers, fruit and shells. We have critiqued artists and spent time trying their techniques.
French	In French, we have recapped our prior year 3 knowledge and started to develop further in topics, including greetings and the location of France.
P.E	PE this term has been fantastic and a little bit different! On Wednesdays, we have been working with YDP to develop our ball skills within invasion games. We have also enjoyed our Friday trips to Stanground swimming pool, where the children have focused on building their confidence and developing their swimming techniques.

To come in Autumn two: There will be changes of topics in certain subjects:

Maths	• Multiplication and division • Discrete and continuous data	<u>Year 4 reminders:</u>
Writing	• Poems which explore form • Third-person adventure stories • News reports	PE days- Wednesdays and Fridays
Computing	• 3D design • Inside a computer	Reading records and book change on Wednesdays
Science	• States of matter	Library book changes on Tuesdays or Thursdays
Geography	• Water cycle	Labelled water bottles
DT	• Christmas biscuit making	Please clearly label all clothing so it can be returned promptly if misplaced.
PSHE	• My emotions • Anti-bullying	If missing clothing- please check with year 4 adults.
P.E	• Dance	
French	• Body parts • Clothing	

Home Learning Overview

Our core home learning routine focuses on three key areas: reading, maths, and topic-based tasks.

Reading: Please continue using your child's reading record to log their reading at home. Any reading counts—and it is wonderful for us to see what captures their interest! **Reading books will be changed every Wednesday**, and the children will visit the school library on either a Tuesday or a Thursday to select an additional 'reading for pleasure' book.

Maths: Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) logins have been reissued. Please let us know if you need another copy. Regular, short bursts of times table practice at home will brilliantly support your child's progress alongside their classroom learning. To support the children ahead of the **Year 4 statutory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the summer term**, additional times table worksheets will also be added to their home learning books weekly.

Topic Tasks: These will be presented in your child's home learning book and will consist of an exciting, project-based task to be completed every half term.

Home learning books will be sent home on Friday 9th October with a task and a due date before the Christmas holidays.

Thank you!

Miss Jenkinson and Mrs Schilling