Bonner Primary

Every Child Thrives

Year 4 Autumn 1

Curriculum Newsletter

Y4 Team

Anita
4AG Class Teacher

Vernel
4VC Class Teacher

Sammie
4SM Class Teacher

Humaira
TA

Aysha
TA

Ilenia
TA

Fatima
TA

Leadership/Safeguarding Team

Nicola
Executive Headteacher

Shazan
Head of School

Lubo
Head of School

Anne
T&L Assistant Headteacher

Sam
Inclusion Assistant Headteacher/SENDCo

Rosie
EYFS Assistant Headteacher

Louise
Senior Learning Mentor

What to Expect in Year 4

This can be a year in which teachers nurture and encourage the feelings of independent thinking, learning and decision making. They already know the routines for school; they have already realised that they have to do daily home reading; they already understand that they are expected to learn a lot in a year; they can dress themselves (mostly!)

Multiplication Tables Check

In June, children in Year 4 will do a times tables test online. This test is a new change from the government that has been in place since 2022. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether children can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify children who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided. Please help your child to learn their times tables at home. They will be tested on every times table from 1x to 12x and should know their related division facts too.

Becoming confident and independent in learning

Overall, perhaps the single most important aspect of this year is children's increasing independence and confidence in what they can achieve at school. Your child will be encouraged to start to think about their own learning. They need to make decisions on how to present work, how and when to complete home learning, and how to learn best. Children often ask questions and their teacher will encourage them to think for themselves too. Could they answer the question themselves? Can they make that choice? If they can, then they are learning skills which are vital for Year 5, Year 6, and adult life.

End of Year 4 Expectations

Writing

- Vary sentence structure, using different openers.
- Use adjectival phrases (e.g. biting cold wind).
- Use appropriate choice of noun or pronoun.
- Use fronted adverbials. Use apostrophe for plural possession.
- Use a comma after fronted adverbial (e.g. Later that day, I heard bad news).
- Use commas to mark clauses.
- Use inverted commas and other punctuation to punctuate direct speech.
- Use paragraphs to organised ideas around a theme.
- Use connecting adverbs to link paragraphs.
- Write with increasing legibility, consistency and fluency.

Reading

- Give a personal point of view on a text.
- Re-explain a text with confidence.
- Justify inferences with evidence, predicting what might happen from details stated or implied.
- Use appropriate voices for characters within a story.
- Recognise apostrophe of possession (plural).
- Identify how sentence type can be changed by altering word order, tenses, adding/ deleting words or amending punctuation.
- Explain why a writer has used different sentence types or a particular word order and the effect it has created.
- Skim & scan to locate information and/or answer a question.

Maths

- Count backwards through zero to include negative numbers.
- Compare and order numbers beyond 1,000.
- Compare and order numbers with up to 2 decimal places.
- Read Roman numerals to 100.
- Find 1,000 more/less than a given number.
- Count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000.
- Recall and use multiplication and division facts all tables to 12x12.
- Recognise PV of any 4-digit number.
- Round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000.
- Round decimals with 1dp to nearest whole number.
- Add and subtract: Numbers with up to 4-digits using written columnar method.
- Multiply: 2-digits by 1-digit and 3-digits by 1-digit.
- Count up/down in hundredths.
- Recognise and write equivalent fractions.
- Add and subtract fractions with same denominator.
- Read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12 and 24 hour clocks.

Year 4 Autumn 1

English
Children will be reading a brilliant book linked to Ancient Egypt - Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx. They'll write descriptions, diaries and stories before learning about the poem, Jabberwocky.

Maths
Children will be learning about place value to 10,000. They'll also be learning about addition and subtraction of 4 digit numbers, using a variety of methods.

Science
Children will be learning about how materials change their state and working scientifically to understand why this happens. They'll learn about solids, liquids and gases, melting ice, boiling water and about the water cycle.

Computing
Children will learn how the internet is structured, how information is shared online and how to evaluate the reliability of websites, becoming safe and responsible digital citizens.

History
This topic is about Ancient Egypt. They'll learn about the achievements, pyramids, religions, the river Nile and society.

PSHE
Children are learning all about money! They'll learn about saving money, keeping it safe, borrowing money and different careers.

Art & Design
We will be learning about portraits this term. Creating observational drawings of facial features, hyper-realistic self portraits, cubist-portraits, and their own stylised work.

Spanish
Children will learn how to greet others, introduce themselves, count to 20 and talk about their age and where they live.

Music
Children will be learning about Musical Structures. They'll learn about patterns, verses and choruses which create structure within music.

PE
Children will develop their teamwork, passing and game skills through tag rugby before improving their balance, flexibility and coordination in gymnastics.

Educational Visits
Children hope to visit the National Portrait Gallery and the British Museum, where they will deepen their understanding of portraiture and Ancient Egypt through engaging workshops and interactive experiences.

Whole School Events in Autumn 1

Meet the Teacher -
Please join us in Week 1 for Meet the Teacher, a chance to hear about the year ahead and ask any questions.
(Wednesday 2nd September 3:30pm)

National Poetry Day
Thursday 1st October

Children will be taking part in activities across the school to celebrate National Poetry Day together.

Parents Evening 12th & 13th October 2026
We warmly invite you to Parents' Evening to discuss your child's progress and how they've settled into the new academic year.

Black History Month
This October, we will be celebrating Black History Month, and class assemblies will take place on **Tuesday 20th October 2:40pm**

Year 4 Multiplication Check

The Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) for 2027 is scheduled to be administered by schools during the two-week period starting **Monday, June 7th to Friday, June 18th, 2027.**

This online assessment consists of 25 questions on times tables from 2 to 12, with each question allowing six seconds for a response. The check is designed to take approximately five minutes to complete.

Parents are encouraged to ensure their children are present during this period and to avoid scheduling term-time holidays. The purpose of the MTC is to assess pupils' fluency in recalling multiplication tables, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

Your child can practice their multiplication tables by doing **daily soundchecks on Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS).** They can also improve their skills by practicing on UrBrainy, which you can access here.

How to Help at Home in Year 4

Help with Reading

For English, the single most important thing that you can do is to hear your child read. Good readers make good writers. When you listen to your child read, there are a number of things to remember:

- Talk about what you've just read together. This helps children think about what they've read, boosts their imagination and grows their confidence. It's also a good way to pick up on new words and check that they understand what they've read. Ask questions about the text, the characters, the plot, the setting, the style of writing, and the words. Anything to get them to think about what they are reading and to consider the deeper messages hidden in the subtext.
- Listen to your child: Listen with your eyes as well as your ears – give them your full attention as they talk or read to you. Tell them one you really enjoyed about their reading.
- Make it fun! Use silly voices and read to each other as well as just listening.
- Enjoy reading all around you: Go online together and read or print off a web page that interests them. Carry a book or comic in your bag to share when you are out and about, on the bus, train, etc.
- Be a good role model for reading. This is the perfect excuse to curl up on the sofa, forget the chores, and read a good book yourself.

Children in Year 4 are capable of reading to themselves as well, and independent reading (and writing) must also be encouraged. However, it is important that those comprehension skills are regularly checked and reading aloud is perfect for that.

Helping with writing

- Beginning writers become more fluent and mature writers only with practice but this shouldn't be forced. Finding everyday opportunities for your child to practice their writing skills will help develop their skills and love for writing.
- Family writing projects: holiday letter writing, Scrapbooks and photo albums. Keep souvenirs of your family activities in an album. Ask your children to help you write in dates and captions. Leave notes or reminders for each other.
- Help your child to use their reading to support them as writers, for example, ask them to look at how a writer they like uses varied sentences or organises paragraphs.

Helping with Maths

In maths, there is an expectation that by the end of Year 4 all times tables are known and learnt fluently. Anything you can do to help that knowledge go in and stay in is fantastic. Practise regularly, making sure to go back and repeat tables you have practised before.

- Sing tables on the walk to school; at mealtimes; before bed; walking the dog; at any spare moment!
- Put a poster at the end of their bed.
- Download an app to practise on a laptop or tablet.

How to Help at Home in Year 4

Speak to your child's teacher

Be sure to speak to your child's teacher at various (non-parent evening) times during the year when you need to. They will be keen to help with any areas of concern you might have. The teacher can also answer any questions you might have about home or school learning. If you have concerns about your child's progress or attainment in reading or writing, please speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. If it is appropriate, the class teacher may refer your child on to the school SENCO, who will work with you to identify your child's needs and put suitable provision into place.

Home Learning in Year 4

What home learning will my child get?

Lots of daily reading! They can use online resources like Accelerated Reader and MyOn, but will also have a real book from the class or school library. It is so important to read every day.

Children will be set weekly home learning on Mathletics. This really helps them to consolidate the learning they have done in class.

They can also use Times Table Rock Stars! This is a really fun online programme which can help them learn their times tables.

Children will also have some weekly spellings to learn. See the next slide for the Year 3/4 Spelling List.

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Year 3/4 Spelling List

accident(ally)	continue	group	natural	question
actual(ly)	decide	guard	naughty	recent
address	describe	guide	notice	regular
answer	different	heard	occasion(ally)	reign
appear	difficult	heart	often	remember
arrive	disappear	height	opposite	sentence
believe	early	history	ordinary	separate
bicycle	earth	imagine	particular	special
breath	eight/eighth	increase	peculiar	straight
breathe	enough	important	perhaps	strange
build	exercise	interest	popular	strength
busy/business	experience	island	position	suppose
calendar	experiment	knowledge	possess(ion)	surprise
caught	extreme	learn	possible	therefore
centre	famous	length	potatoes	though/although
century	favourite	library	pressure	thought
certain	February	material	probably	through
circle	forward(s)	medicine	promise	various
complete	fruit	mention	purpose	weight
consider	grammar	minute	quarter	woman/women