

Welcome to Year 4!

September 2025

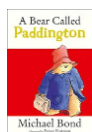
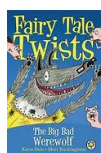
Welcome back! What a busy week we've had! It's exciting to be back in class and start getting to know the children better. This is just a little note to share some of the learning we have planned and remind you of a few important things.

Contacting us: We encourage the use of Class Dojo, which is checked daily, for non-urgent updates or queries. Please see us if you are not connected. For urgent queries, please ring the school office.



English

Our focus books this first half-term are: 'Fairy Tale Twists' by Katie Dale and 'A bear called Paddington' by Michael Bond.



We'll be concentrating on:

- Writing and rehearsing poetry.
- Creating characters, settings and plots.
- Informal and formal letter writing.
- Newspaper reports.

With an emphasis on the skill of proof-reading and editing work.

Topic



Our topic this half-term is 'Invasions'

In this topic the children will explore the effects of the Roman withdrawal and the chronology and geography of subsequent invasions. They will study the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in detail, examining their reasons for invading, their settlements and their everyday life. They will also look at monasteries and the Anglo-Saxon legacy.

As a class we will consider how we know about life in this period and investigate the Sutton Hoo ship burial. They will learn about Athelstan, an Anglo-Saxon king, and what happened after his death, before ending the project by learning about the Norman invasion of 1066.

Science: Learning about sound, how sound is made and how sound travels as vibrations through a medium to the ear. We will also learn about pitch and volume and how they can both be changed.

Religious Education: Learning about inspirational people within Christianity.

PHSE – Jigsaw: Our theme is 'Being Me' and the children will be learning about being inclusive and being part of a team or community with a focus on how this makes them feel.

Maths



As a school, we are using 'White Rose Maths'. The scheme has a firm belief that number underpins almost every area of mathematics, so, for the first four weeks back we'll be focusing on place value to ensure the children have a firm understanding of number. Over the rest of the half-term we'll be covering addition and subtraction in detail before moving on to multiplication and division as well as measurement after the half term.

If you would like to know more about the new scheme, or how you can best support your child with maths at home, please do speak with us or take a look at the 'White Rose' website. There's a great section for parents and carers with advice as well as free mini workbooks that can be downloaded if you so wish to help consolidate in school learning (please don't feel you have to do this).

In June, all Year 4 children are required to undertake a multiplication check. As such we will focus heavily on rapid recall of all times tables up to 12 x 12. Any support you could give with this will be so beneficial to the children. A few minutes each evening just practising can really build your child's confidence!

PE

Just a reminder that on your child's PE day, they will be changing at school. Please ensure they bring their kit in at the start of the week, and it is suitable for the weather conditions. Children should wear black trainers, black shorts or tracksuit bottoms with the green school logo PE top and their school jumper.

Please make sure it is all named - especially jumpers as these may be taken off during the day. Hats and gloves may also be worn if cold. Also, just a reminder jewellery (including earrings and necklaces) should not be worn on PE days as these could cause injury.

Eagle PE days- Wednesday and Friday

Galaxy PE days- Tuesday and Thursday

Nimrod PE days- Wednesday and Friday

Homework

Homework is a great opportunity for you as parents/carers to support your child's education as well as a way to celebrate successes both in and out of school. In Year 4, **weekly homework will be set on a FRIDAY and due by the following WEDNESDAY**. This weekly homework will consist of the spelling words we have learnt that week as well as a 10 minute times tables 'workout' from their CPG times tables book. Your child will also have access to TT Rockstars, and we strongly encourage that they access this at home. We may also set tasks for the children on TT Rockstars.

We will also create a homework 'grid' for the children each half term. A paper copy will be sent home with your child with a range of activities to choose from. The expectation is that they **complete one item** from the grid (they can absolutely choose to complete more if they wish!). All the details for this will be explained in more detail on the sheet sent. Thank you in advance for your support with this 😊

Reading

Each child will have a book to read daily in school from our 'Accelerated Reader' scheme which can be taken home each evening along with their reading log book. **We encourage you to read daily at home with your child to help develop their reading skills.** This could be their AR book or any other book, magazine, comic or text. Their AR book uses reading range levels that are designed to give suitable challenge to each child and we would rather all children choose a book they are *eager* to read rather than having to find something they are not enthused about!

At Great Heath, all home reading is celebrated and the children can earn themselves rewards. It would be great if you could sign your child's log book every time they do read aloud to an adult or sibling for us to ensure this is counted towards the 'Read to Succeed' scheme.

The School Day

Just a reminder:

Gates open at **8:35am** and classroom doors open at **8:40am**. The school day starts at **8:45am** and gates will close at 8:50am. The school day ends at **3:15pm**.

Swimming

We're very lucky in Year 4 to be given the opportunity to attend swimming lessons. The children that attended these sessions last year loved it and, despite some having never entered a pool, all joined in and gained confidence as well as learning important lifesaving skills!

The swimming lessons will see one class attending their 10-week block of lessons; a separate letter containing further details has been sent home. Please ensure you return the consent form at the bottom of this and let Reception know if there are any changes to emergency contact numbers already held.

If you have any further queries after receiving this letter, or feel that your child may become anxious about swimming, please do let us know and we will do all we can to help.

We're looking forward to a great year!

Mrs Flack and Mrs Cole (Eagle class teachers), Miss Jansen (Galaxy class teacher), Mrs Harwood (Nimrod class teacher)

Miss Smith, Mrs Martin-Smith, Miss Weller, Mrs Balrey (Yr 4 teaching assistants)