

# Welcome to Year 4!

January 2026

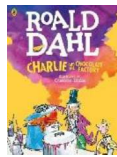
Welcome back! I hope you had a restful winter break. It's exciting to be back in class and continue our learning. This is just a little note to share some of the learning we have planned and remind you of a few important things.

**Contacting us:** We encourage the use of Class Dojo, which is checked daily (8.30am- 3.30pm), 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 book this first half-term is: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.



We'll be concentrating on:

- Writing recounts and letters.
- Creating characters, settings and plots.
- Grammar: expanded noun phrases, adverbials of time and conjunctions.

With an emphasis on extended writing.

## Topic



Our topic this half-term is 'Misty Mountains, Windy Rivers'. This is a Geography topic.

In this topic the children will explore the different mountain types and mountain ranges within the UK and around the world. We will also look at the journey of a river and the location of various rivers around the world. As a class we will also research and create a non-chronological report about the River Nile. This is good preparation for our Summer topic 'Ancient Civilisations'.

**French:** We will be looking at the correct vocabulary to describe what we enjoy doing in our free time.

**Religious Education:** Learning about Hinduism and how stories in Hinduism are used to deliver teachings to its followers.

**PHSE – Jigsaw:** Our theme is 'Hopes and Dreams' and the children will be learning about having hopes and dreams and how this feels. We will also look at how to overcome disappointment.

## 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 perimeter and length and fractions.

If you would like to know more about the 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 expected to undertake a multiplication check as per government guidelines. As such we will focus heavily on recall of all times tables up to 12 x 12. The test requires rapid recall with only 6 seconds per question. 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. We strongly encourage the use of Times Tables Rockstars.**

## 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.

**Eagle PE days- Tuesday and Wednesday**

**Galaxy PE days- Monday and Friday**

**Nimrod- Monday and Tuesday**

More information regarding swimming will be sent out soon.

## 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 spellings to revise as well as times tables to be learnt. There is also a '10 Minute Workout' book which is sent home weekly. Please could your child complete one 'workout' each week and return this to class by Wednesday.

We strongly encourage the use of Times Tables Rockstars and Lexia at home, as both these programmes greatly support your child's education.

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.**

## Music

This term we are using a new Music scheme called Charanga. This scheme will help develop your child's musical understanding, focusing particularly on pulse, beat and rhythm. Each half term has a focus song that is used as the basis of the learning. This half term's song is Stop! by Joanna Mangona. Within this, we will incorporate the use of Recorders. Your child also has access to Charanga at home, if they wish to use it.

**Thank you for your continued support!**

Mrs Flack and Mrs Cole (Eagle class teachers)

Miss Jansen (Galaxy class teacher)

Miss Ramsell and Miss Milner (Nimrod class teachers)

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