



Rivers and Water for All

Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2025

<p><u>Staff</u></p> <p>4HW Miss Wistow, Year Leader 4MB Miss Bastow 4KM Miss Mullett</p> <p><u>Learning Support Assistants:</u> Mrs Young Mrs Wiltshire Mrs Bloomfield</p>	<p>Year 4 Key Dates: Tuesday 21st October Thursday 23rd October Friday 24th October Monday 4th November Tuesday 5th November Wednesday 26th November Wednesday 3rd December Tuesday 16th December</p>	<p>Parent Consultation Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm Parent Consultation Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm Finish for half term Inset Day Return to School after half-term Waterwise workshop in school Open Morning - Mini recorder Music Concert Carol Service 6:30pm</p>
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Welcome to Year 4

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to school and to Year 4. We are proud of how well all the children have settled back into school life.

Geography - there are two main projects for Year 4 this term. During the **Rivers** project, children will find out about how rivers form and will learn about the main river features. They will learn about major rivers in the United Kingdom and compare some of their distinguishing features. There is also the River Trip to **Blashford Lakes** where children will investigate river Geography, undertake fieldwork activities and identify creatures that live in rivers and ponds. During the **Water for All** project, children will discover places in the world which have good access to water and which places in the world do not. We have a visitor from Bournemouth Water during this project to help the children understand where our water comes from, how it reaches our home and explore ways of saving water.

English - we have begun with a unit of work based around the picture book **The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish** which children will use as a stimulus for a narrative. After this, we are going to study explanation texts using the water cycle as a focus. During the rest of the term we will be writing letters based on **Shackleton's Journey** and writing character descriptions based on the book *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Mathematics - we will be focusing on **place value** of numbers up to 9999. We will then move on to **written and mental methods of addition and subtraction**. We will be learning about **multiplication and division**, moving the children on from the methods that they were using in Year 3. We will also cover **measure**. Children will measure volume, mass and length as well as convert between different units of measure and measuring the perimeter and area of rectilinear shapes. They will strengthen their number facts fluency with Back to Basics and daily long-term retrieval activities.

Science - we will be finding out about different types of seed dispersal and following this, we will be starting a long-term study about **habitats** and the pond area. Our electricity learning will link with a **Design Technology** project, making a night light. Children will experiment with making circuits and will explore different conductors and insulators

Design and Technology - sees the children making a **night light**. They will investigate the best materials for a light shade and a reflector for their LED bulb. They will decorate their light around a given theme.

Art - children will be creating pieces with a **'river' theme**. They will explore the ways in which artists create water movement using different materials and art skills. They will study the work of **David Wiseman** to give them ideas for their own work.

French – Children will begin by learning and revising **classroom instructions** in French. Children will learn the **names of animals** and learn some words to describe them. They can use this to talk about pets.

RE – We will begin the year by looking at the concept of **Community**. We will consider how neighbours are important in our lives and in Christian stories. We will then study the concept of **Symbols** in the lead up to Christmas. We will study how Christians use special symbols in Christmas celebrations.

ICT/Computing – children will be using **Scratch** to learn about count-controlled and indefinite loops in programming. They will be working towards creating their own programmes. They will be developing presentation media skills using PowerPoint.

PSHE – children begin the year by making their **Class Charter** to set their class ethos and expectations. Our two SCARF units this term will be **Me and My Relationships** and **Valuing Difference**.

Music – Children will be continuing their learning from year 3 to develop their **recorder** playing skills for more complex pieces. The children will be showcasing their new skills in a performance for parents.

PE - will be on **Thursday afternoons**. In preparation for these lessons please ensure that your child has in school appropriate indoor/outdoor kit - plain white t-shirts, black or navy-blue shorts and for the outside school fleeces (not tops with brand logos), black or navy-blue tracksuit bottoms and trainers for outdoors. This term, we are learning **netball** (with the focus skills being improving throwing and catching and controlling a ball while moving), **hockey** (exploring team work and accuracy of passing) and **gymnastics** where we will be exploring travelling and jumping. No jewellery to be worn for PE lesson and hair tied back for safety reasons.



Homework -

Maths homework will be set on Mathletics on a **Wednesday** to be completed by the following **Wednesday**.

Spellings - are issued on a **Wednesday**, in their homework diaries and on Spellzone, and tested on a **Thursday**.

TT Rockstars is available throughout the year and we encourage children to use this as often as possible in preparation for their timestable test at the end of Y4.

We will sign the homework diaries weekly on a Friday and we ask that you sign on **Thursday** beforehand so that we know you have seen them.

How can you help?

Reading - As always, reading with your child will do wonders for their reading and writing. It is very helpful to read alongside your child and talk to them about what they have read. It is useful for the children to be asked a range of who, what, where, why and when questions as they read and for them to explain their answers using what they have read. Please do record any reading completed at home in their homework diary.

Home Learning — Help your child to complete their homework where necessary; help them to build structure into their week and a regular routine; encourage them to be responsible for meeting deadlines.

Spellings and Times Tables — Support your child with their spelling and times-tables practice in preparation for our weekly tests. The government requirement is that children will know their times-tables by the end of year 4 and an online test later in the year will assess speed of recall and fluency.

Mathletics, Reading Plus, Reading Eggs, Mathseeds and TT Rockstars— We provide access to a range of educational learning platforms at RJS and we encourage the children to use these as much as possible at home. Login details for these can be found in your child's diary. **Reading Eggs** and **Mathseeds** will be made available to certain pupils who need additional support.

Useful websites:

<https://rollama.com/login/> - Games to help children learn spelling rules, grammar and punctuation rules

<https://www.spellzone.com/> - Online English spelling resource to help build student knowledge.

<https://ttrockstars.com/> Maths games to help children practise times tables skills.

www.readingplus.com English reading fluency and comprehension

<https://community.mathletics.com/signin/#/student> - Maths activities to support the whole Maths curriculum

<https://spellingframe.co.uk/> - Interactive spelling activities for all Year 3 and Year 4 spelling rules.



Finally, should you have any concerns, questions or comments, your child's class teacher is more than happy to talk to you at the end of the day at the gate. If you would prefer to make an appointment to come in at another time or for us to phone you, leave a message or call the office and the class teacher will contact you with an appointment time. Alternatively, you can write a comment in your child's homework diary. Please make sure your child knows the comment is in there so that they can bring it to us.

Thank you for your continued support — Miss Wistow, Year 4 Leader and the Year 4 Team.