

# Year 4 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring 1



**Strength in Learning.  
Power in Community**

Dear parents and carers,  
Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely, relaxing break with family and friends. We are excited to start our new term!  
Our team are: Mrs Smith and Mrs Ahmad (Chestnut Class), Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Swinson (Beech Class) and Mrs Collyer (Hazel Class).  
We also have a wonderful group of Teaching Assistants working with us too!



**Writing:** This half term we will be using the core texts, 'Wind in the Willows' and 'Varjak Paw'. To start with, we will be using the text 'Wind in the Willows' to write some river poetry and to create some persuasive writing to convince other creatures in the story to move to the riverbank. Later in the term, we will be using the text 'Varjak Paw' to write a narrative, based on the book. We will continue to develop our writing skills, practising figurative language and refining our use of speech later in the term.



**Reading:** This half term in reading we are reading The House on the Edge of Magic which follows the character Nine on her adventure. They will explore themes of courage, kindness, and change while strengthening their reading fluency and working on their vyper skills of vocabulary, inference, prediction, explain, retrieve and summarise.



**Maths:** In maths this half term we are focusing on multiplication and division. We will be exploring factors pairs and using the written methods for multiplication and division calculations. We will later be looking at length and perimeter where we will be exploring different shapes and finding missing lengths.



**Science:** Our topic this half term focusses on digestion and food. We will be exploring the role of the digestive system in humans, whilst thinking carefully about what different parts of the digestive system do. We will also be looking at our teeth, and what we can do to keep our teeth clean. Later in the unit, we will be comparing teeth and diets of different animals as part of a food chain. As part of this, we will need to consider what the roles of the different teeth are and how teeth differ in carnivores, herbivore and omnivores.



**History/Geography:** This half term our Geography unit is Rivers. We will be learning about the different stages of a river course, thinking about the source, different features and stages of a river.



**PSHE:** In PHSE this half term we will be look at how bereavement affects us all, what we can do to manage our feelings and how we can cope with this. We will also look at where to go for help. Please do let your child's class teacher know if there is a new bereavement that we need to be aware of – we will of course be sensitive to this issue and support children throughout the unit.



**Music:** This half-term, the children will be using music technology as part of their learning. We will be using Busy Beats on Purple Mash to both evaluate existing pieces and create our own simple pieces of music, selecting different sounds and beats, with a focus on these musical terms - melody, pitch, rhythm and tempo.



**Computing:** In computing we are going to be looking at animation. The children will be designing and creating their own animations. We will then be looking again at online safety where children will be learning how to keep themselves safe online.



**PE:** This half term our outdoor PE is Basketball – we will be refining our passing and receiving skills. A huge part of PE is working collaboratively in a team, and working together in order to 'win'. Our indoor PE this half term is a gymnastics unit. We will be learning a routine, before creating, rehearsing and performing our own routines.



**RE:** In R.E this half term we are going to be looking at commitments that people make as part of their faith such as baptisms. We will be encouraging children to share from their personal experiences, if they feel comfortable to do so.



**Art & DT:** In art this half term we are going to be exploring pattern. We will have opportunities to explore artists who use patterns, before designing and making our own repeated pattern tiles.



**MFL:** In French, we will be learning some different animal names – we will do this through song and games! We will continue to revise the vocabulary that we have learnt in the previous terms.



**Forest school:** This half term, Year 4 will be sawing a wooden disk and turning it into a spinning top or wooden spinner. They will also be making bread dough and cooking it on an open fire.

If you have any questions at all please contact us or catch us at the end of the school day.

Please ensure the children come into school ready for PE on their days.

<b>Beech Class:</b>	<b>Indoor</b> - Wednesday	<b>Outdoor</b> - Friday
<b>Chestnut Class:</b>	<b>Indoor</b> - Thursday	<b>Outdoor</b> - Wednesday
<b>Hazel Class:</b>	<b>Indoor</b> - Friday	<b>Outdoor</b> - Wednesday

Daily reading makes a huge difference—please record this in your child's reading record.

**Homework and spellings go home each Thursday.**