



Y4 Autumn Term 2026



Journeys

Term Dates: Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

INSET Days: Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September

Y4 Teaching Staff: Mrs Bono (4TB & Year Leader), Mrs Rose (4CR), Miss Holmes (4LH), Miss Windle (4LG Monday - Wednesday) and Mrs Groome (4LG Thursday, Friday), Mrs White (4EW), Ms Banner (4BB), Mrs Duncan (Mondays in 4LH and Fridays in 4CR)

Y4 Learning Support Assistants: Mr Gudgridge (4TB), Miss Mayes (4EW), Mrs Douglass (4LG), Mrs Ramprasad (4CR), Mr Grace (4BB), Miss Allen (4LH), Ms Hartley (4CR), Miss Hirst (4BB), Mrs Murray (4EW)

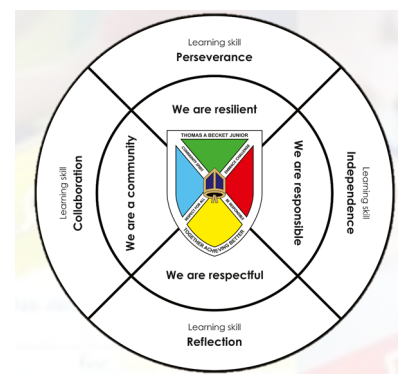
Other Y4 Staff: Miss Pearcy (P.E) and Mrs Dodd (Music)

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Year 4 team would like to begin by offering a warm welcome to you all. We're excited about the year ahead and hope your child is too.

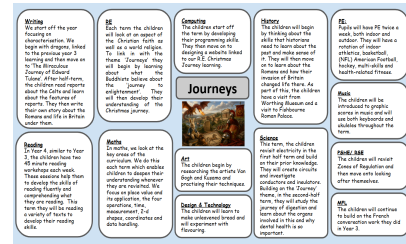
On the first day of term, the children will be met on the playground. From day two onwards, they will walk independently to the Year 4 corridor. We—both teachers and LSAs—will guide them through this routine during their first morning with us, so they feel confident and secure.

We'll begin the autumn term with TAB Way Week, which focuses on understanding and living out our school values. It's a gentle and purposeful way to settle in, reconnect and get to know new classmates and staff.



Our Learning This Term

Our autumn topic is **Journeys** and we will explore this theme across English, history, R.E. and science. We have enclosed our topic map, which outlines the curriculum areas and how we will be weaving them together. Wherever possible, we aim to make meaningful links between subjects, helping children develop a broad, deep and connected understanding of their learning.



Please also see the accompanying Enrichment Letter for more information about the trips and activities we have planned to bring this topic to life.

Children will also be working with different teachers for maths and will be informed of their maths teacher on the first day of term.

Communication and Home Learning

Reading Records and Rewards

As in Year 3, children are expected to read to an adult at least five times a week. We ask that you or your child record each read in their reading record, ideally once per day.

This year, Mrs Craft and Mrs Bono have worked together to bring our reading milestones and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party more closely together. As a result, children will no longer collect reading gems. Instead, they will take part in **The Wonderland Reading Quest**, collecting character stickers inspired by *Alice in Wonderland* as they journey through Wonderland and work towards exciting reading milestones.

We count the number of days a child reads rather than the number of books they finish or the number of times they read in a day. Therefore, if a child reads every day for a week, they will have seven reads.

Milestones

📖 **Alice** — 50 reads

🐇 **White Rabbit** — 100 reads

🐱 **Cheshire Cat** — 150 reads

👧 **Tweedledum and Tweedledee** — 200 reads

👑 **Mad Hatter** — 250 reads

👑 **Queen of Hearts** — 300 reads



Progress will be tracked in class and children who reach the Mad Hatter milestone at 250 reads will receive a special invitation to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party in July. Children who continue their journey and reach 300 reads will earn the Queen of Hearts sticker and complete The Wonderland Reading Quest.

We hope that these changes will make reading feel even more magical and help children to

see the connection between their daily reading and the special celebration that awaits them at the end of the year.

Google Classroom

It's important that you and your child can access both their class and their maths class' Google Classroom pages. Log-in details (along with TT Rockstars credentials) will be given to your child at the beginning of term.

The Classroom stream will include reminders, homework, useful links, key dates and photos celebrating our learning. While parents and children can't post directly, you're always welcome to email your child's teacher. Weekly timetables will also be posted here.

Homework and Curriculum

Maths

Children will be set one piece of maths homework each week alongside times table practice on TT Rockstar. The latter of these will help them to prepare for the [Multiplication Tables Check \(MTC\) at the end of Year 4](#). The maths homework will be available on the maths Google Classroom page and paper copies will be sent home in the maths homework book.

Spellings

Children will receive eight spellings linked to the week's spelling rule every Monday. They can practise these at home in any way that works best for them, such as writing them, playing games or saying them aloud.

A spelling book will be provided at the start of term for home use only and does not need to be brought into school. However, children are welcome to bring them in on Mondays to glue the new set of spellings in.

Spelling tests will take place every Friday. As well as the eight weekly spellings, children will be given two bonus words to see if they can apply the spelling rule to unfamiliar words.

Equipment and Essentials

Please check regularly that your child has what they need in their pencil case. Items do run out and they may not always remember to tell you. Each child should have:

- A blue handwriting pen
- A pencil
- A 30 cm clear ruler
- A rubber
- A sharpener
- A green biro
- A whiteboard pen
- A glue stick



All of these are available from the school stationery shop at a reasonable price.

Children should also bring a healthy snack for break and water only in a named bottle. As the weather turns colder, please ensure they have a waterproof and/or warm coat — we go

outside in all but the worst weather.



Key Days and Dates

Indoor and Outdoor PE

Please make sure children have the correct PE kit on their allocated days. West Sussex County Council does not permit jewellery during PE, including earrings and watches. If jewellery must be worn for medical reasons, please notify us in writing. If your child is having their ears pierced, we strongly recommend doing so at the start of the summer holidays. Earrings must be taped or

taken out for PE sessions. If they are taped, children must bring this with them or have it on for the day.

Class	Indoor PE	Outdoor PE
4LG	Tuesday	Monday
4TB	Friday	Monday
4EW	Thursday	Monday
4BB	Wednesday	Thursday
4CR	Monday	Thursday
4LH	Wednesday	Thursday

Library Days

Each class will continue to visit the library on a weekly basis. Please help your child remember to bring their library book on the correct day.

Monday - 4BB

Tuesday - 4CR

Wednesday - 4TB

Thursday - 4LH

Friday - 4EW, 4LG

Special Events

Class Assemblies

Assemblies take place on Thursdays from 1:40 to 2:10 pm. There is space for 2 members of each family to attend to watch their child perform.

Class	Date
4TB	Thursday 22nd October
4LH	Thursday 26th November
4BB	Thursday 21st January

4CR	Thursday 11th March
4EW	Thursday 29th April
4LG	Thursday 13th May

Open Afternoons

Once a term, we invite parents and carers into school to celebrate the wonderful work the children have been doing. These sessions are not drop-ins; each has a specific start and finish time to ensure children have the opportunity to share their learning calmly and meaningfully.

Dates:

- Thursday 10th December 2026
 - 1:35–2:05 pm – 4CR, 4LG and 4EW
 - 2:05–2:35 pm – 4TB, 4LH and 4BB
- Monday 22nd March 2027
 - 1:35–2:05 pm – 4CR, 4LG and 4EW
 - 2:05–2:35 pm – 4TB, 4LH and 4BB
- Tuesday 13th July 2027 - afternoon, times to be confirmed.

Welcome to Year 4 Evening

Finally, we would like to invite all parents and carers (adults only, please) to our Welcome to Year 4 Evening on **Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 6pm**. This is a chance to meet your child's class teacher, visit their classroom and learn more about the year ahead.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself directly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Mrs Tonia Bono - Year 4 Leader
 tbono@thomasabecketjunior.org.uk

Writing

We begin the year with a focus on characterisation, starting with dragons to build on the children's learning from Year 3. We then move on to *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, a truly beautiful story.

After half-term, the children explore the features of report writing through reading a non-fiction text about the Celts. They will then apply their learning by researching and writing their own reports about life in Roman Britain.

Reading

In Year 4, as in Year 3, the children take part in two 45-minute reading workshops each week. These sessions help them to develop their reading skills. Throughout the term, the children will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, developing their fluency and deepening their understanding of what they read.

RE

Each term, the children will explore an aspect of the Christian faith as well as a world religion. To link with our theme, Journeys, they will begin by learning about the Buddhist journey to enlightenment and what Buddhists believe. They will then deepen their understanding of the journey many people made to Bethlehem at Christmas and explore why this event remains so important to Christians today.

Maths

In maths, we revisit the key areas of the curriculum each term, allowing the children to deepen their understanding as concepts are returned to and built upon over time. Throughout the year, the children will develop their knowledge and application of place value, the four operations, time, measurement, geometry, coordinates and data handling.

Computing

The children begin the term by developing their programming skills. They will then move on to designing and creating a website linked to their R.E. learning about the Christmas journey.



Art

The children begin by researching the artists Vincent van Gogh and Yayoi Kusama and exploring the techniques they used in their work. They will then apply these skills to create their own squiggle art inspired by the artists' distinctive styles.

Design & Technology

The children will learn to make unleavened bread and will experiment with flavouring.

PSHE/ RSE

TAB Week will help the children revisit our core values and the importance of relationships.

They will then revisit the Zones of Regulation before learning how to look after themselves physically.

MFL

The children will continue to build on the French conversation work they did in Year 3.

History

The children will begin by thinking about the skills that historians need to learn about the past and make sense of it. They will then move on to learn about the Romans and how their invasion of Britain changed life there. As part of this, the children will visit Fishbourne Roman Palace and investigate Roman artefacts at school.

PE:

Pupils will have PE twice a week, both indoor and outdoor. They will have a rotation of indoor athletics, basketball, (NFL) American Football, hockey, multi-skills and health-related fitness.

Music

The children will be introduced to graphic scores in music and will use both keyboards and ukuleles throughout the term.

Science

This term, the children revisit electricity in the first half term and build on their prior knowledge. They will create circuits and investigate conductors and insulators. Building on the 'Journey' theme, in the second-half term, they will study the journey of digestion and learn about the organs involved in this and why dental health is so important.