

# Year 4 Newsletter

## Autumn 2—2025/2026

### Reading

The new reading approach in Key Stage 2 has allowed all children to partake in lessons, and read texts that may have previously been out of reach. The children are enjoying reading aloud to their peers, and answering questions verbally and in their reading folders, to demonstrate their understanding of these trickier texts. This half-term, Year 4 are continuing to read *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo, a novel that follows young soldier he reflects on his childhood, family, and the harsh realities of World War I on the battlefield. The children will then move onto reading *The Iliad and the Odyssey* by Homer which is an epic poem that follows the final year of the Trojan War.

### Writing

This half-term, Year 4 are writing two pieces. Pupils will begin by exploring the features of a fear tale, using an alien landing as inspiration to create suspenseful and imaginative narratives. They'll learn how to build tension, describe settings and characters and structure their stories effectively. Later in the term, children will shift to non-fiction writing by creating a non-chronological report all about aliens. They'll practise organising information clearly, using headings, factual language, and technical vocabulary to inform and engage the reader.

Throughout both units, pupils will build confidence in planning, drafting, editing and presenting their work—developing creativity and precision in their writing.

### Maths

In maths this half term, the children will be consolidating their learning on addition and subtraction of numbers to 10,000. They then move on to looking at shapes and finding and comparing the area of different shapes. They finish the half term with a multiplication and division topic, recapping the 3s, and then looking at their 6-12 times tables in preparation of the multiplication check next year.

### Key Dates

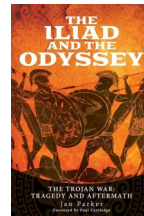
Crossbill Church Visit—Tuesday 9th December

Linnet Church Visit—Wednesday 10th December

### Whole Class Reading

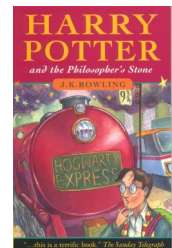


Private Peaceful — Michael Morpurgo



The Iliad and the Odyssey — Homer

### Class Read

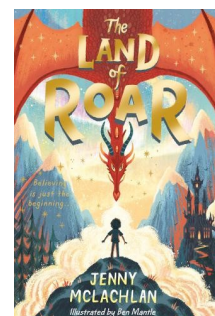
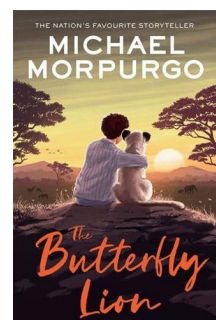


Crossbill



Linnet

### Suggested Books for Reading



## Science

This term, Year 4 will be diving into the fascinating science unit *Animals Including Humans*.

Pupils will explore how the human body works, focusing on the digestive system, the different types of teeth and their functions, and how to keep them healthy. They will also investigate how different liquids might affect teeth through a fair test, helping them develop important scientific skills such as predicting, observing and drawing conclusions. Later in the unit, children will learn about food chains—discovering how energy is transferred from one organism to another and the vital roles of producers, predators, and prey in ecosystems.

## History

The children are continuing their study of invaders and settlers and Ancient Rome this half term. To continue their previous learning they will refer back to their understanding of the Roman empire and discuss how and why the empire expanded. They will look in detail at Hadrian's wall, and be able to understand how and why it was built. The children will get an insight into what life was like in Roman Britain, understanding local customs, how trading worked and how people of different classes lived. They will then finish the topic by answering the question 'How was Britain impacted by the withdrawal of the Roman Empire?'. The children will use all of the knowledge they have gained over the Autumn term, to answer this question fully.

## Art

This term in Art, Year 4 will be exploring the vibrant world of painting through the lens of American artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Pupils will learn about O'Keeffe's life and work, discovering how she used bold colours, close-up perspectives and natural forms to create striking images. Throughout the unit, children will develop their painting skills by experimenting with colour mixing, tones and tints. They will study examples of O'Keeffe's artwork, practise recreating one of her famous pieces and then apply what they've learned to design and paint their own original artwork inspired by her unique style. This creative journey will help pupils build confidence with paint, deepen their understanding of artistic techniques, and encourage them to express their ideas through colour and composition.

## PE

In their indoor PE sessions this half term, pupils will focus on jumping and landing with control, as well as improving their seated balance. These activities help build strength, coordination, and body awareness, laying the foundation for confident movement across all sports and activities. Outside, children will be learning key hockey skills through the fast-paced game of Quicksticks. Children will develop key hockey skills including dribbling, passing, tackling and shooting with control. As they progress, children will take part in adapted games where they'll be encouraged to think tactically about attacking and defending, building teamwork and strategic thinking alongside their physical skills.



## RE

The children return to Christianity this half term, looking at the Christmas story and discussing the meaning of Christmas and whether this has been lost. They will discuss giving and receiving gifts and will be able to understand and explain the reason for certain symbols and beliefs at Christmas time. The children finish this topic with a visit to the church.

## Music

Over the next two half-terms, children will be exploring a range of musical concepts and developing key skills through listening, performing, and discussion. They will learn to recognise how motifs are used and developed within music, and identify changes in dynamics and tempo, including gradual shifts and scaled dynamics such as crescendos and decrescendos. Pupils will use musical vocabulary to discuss the purpose and stylistic features of different genres, styles, and traditions. They will also be introduced to performance directions—specific terms in music notation that guide how a piece should be played.

## French

This term in French, Year 4 will be learning all about the seasons. Pupils will build their vocabulary by naming the four seasons, describing seasonal weather and talking about activities linked to different times of year. They will practise speaking and listening skills through songs, games and conversations, and begin to write simple sentences using key vocabulary and phrases. The unit also introduces basic grammar structures to help children express themselves more confidently in French. By the end of the unit, pupils will be able to describe the seasons and weather in French, and share what they like to do during each one.

## PSHE

This term in PSHE, Year 4 will be exploring *Celebrating Differences*, which focuses on understanding and respecting diversity. Pupils will learn to recognise what makes each person unique and special, and how our differences can be something to value and celebrate. Through discussions, stories and activities, children will explore topics such as bullying and how to stand up for themselves and others in a respectful way. They'll also reflect on friendships, empathy and how to appreciate the qualities that make people different from themselves. This unit helps build confidence, kindness, and a strong sense of community.