



# Year 4 Newsletter

## Spring 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 their exploration of Greek mythology, moving onto the second legend of The Iliad and the Odyssey by Homer (as retold by Gillian Cross) which is an epic poem that follows the final year of the Trojan War.

### Writing

Next half-term, Year 4 will dive into the world of advertising as we master the art of **persuasive writing**. Using the **Talk for Writing** approach, the children will learn to "sell a dream" by creating a captivating property advert for the '**Cosy Cottage**.' Through this unit, they will learn how to balance **informative** details—such as key features and location—with **persuasive** techniques like emotive vocabulary, rhetorical questions and catchy slogans. By the end of the term, children will be able to transform a simple description into a compelling pitch designed to hook any potential buyer!



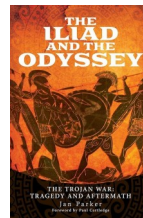
### Maths

In Year 4, the jump from whole numbers to fractions and decimals is a major milestone that helps students understand the "bits in between." We begin by exploring fractions as equal parts of a whole, learning how to identify equivalent amounts and calculate fractions of shapes and quantities. We then bridge this knowledge into decimals, focusing specifically on tenths and hundredths. This unit is all about seeing the connection between these two formats—whether we are measuring lengths in centimeters or calculating change with money—to build a solid foundation for more complex proportion work later on.

### Key Dates

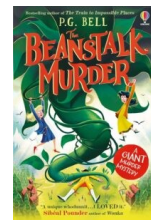
Trip to Winchester Science Centre—Thursday 26th  
March

### Whole Class Reading



The Iliad and the  
Odyssey — Homer

### Class Read



Crossbill



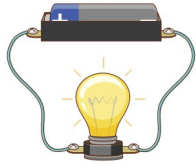
Linnet

### Suggested Books for Reading



## Science

This half-term, Year 4 will be investigating the fundamentals of **Electricity** through practical experimentation. The children will be tasked with solving two "big questions": identifying which materials act as **conductors or insulators**, and observing how changing the **length of a wire** affects the brightness of a bulb. By building their own circuits and testing variables, they will learn to collect data, identify patterns in electrical resistance, and draw evidence-based conclusions.



## Geography



This term, Year 4 will be exploring the fascinating question "*How were the Himalayas formed?*" Pupils will learn about the Earth's layers and the movement of tectonic plates, discovering how the collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates created the world's highest mountain range. Through maps, diagrams, videos and hands-on activities, children will develop their geography skills and scientific understanding while learning about famous Himalayan mountains such as Mount Everest. This topic encourages curiosity about our changing planet and helps pupils understand how landscapes are formed over millions of years.

## Times Tables



As we approach the summer term, we are increasing our focus on times table fluency in preparation for the national **MTC**. To support all our children we are dedicating additional time in our weekly timetable to this. Rather than just rote learning, we are using a variety of teaching methods—including interactive games, choral counting, and rapid-fire retrieval—to ensure children can recall all facts needed with both speed and confidence. Our goal is to make this process engaging and low-stakes, helping every child achieve the fluency needed for the transition to Year 5.

## PE

In their indoor sessions this half-term, children will be completing unit which focuses on **Dynamic Balance** and **Stance**, two foundational elements of physical agility. Students will work on maintaining a stable base and controlled centre of gravity while moving through different planes of motion.

In their outdoor sessions, Year 4 will be receiving specialist cricket coaching from Chris Vaal, the Leisure Development Manager for Bracknell Forest Council. These sessions will focus on the fundamentals of the game—batting, bowling, and fielding—while encouraging teamwork and sportsmanship. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn from one of Bracknell's most experienced sports organizers and develop their passion for the game.



## RE

This half-term, Year 4 will revisit the **Easter Story** through the lens of a challenging "Big Question": **Is forgiveness always possible for Christians?** By examining the biblical accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and the actions of those around him—such as Judas and Peter—the children will explore the central Christian belief that Jesus' death was an act of ultimate forgiveness. We will reflect on whether forgiveness is a choice or a requirement in the Christian faith, and encourage the children to consider the complexities of forgiving



## Computing

This half-term, children will be exploring **networks**. This unit takes the children "behind the screen" to understand how the digital world actually functions. We will start by exploring how **networks** connect to one another to form the internet and how data is shared globally. A key focus will be the distinction between the **internet** (the hardware) and the **World Wide Web** (the content), as we investigate what a website is and who—if anyone—actually controls it. Finally, we will develop vital digital literacy skills by questioning the reliability of online information and learning why we can't always believe everything we read on the web.



## French

This half-term, Year 4 will be progressing to the Intermediate Level of our Language Angels scheme with the unit '**En Classe**'.

The children will build upon their previous knowledge to name common classroom objects and follow more complex instructions in French. A key focus will be on the use of **gender** (masculine vs. feminine) and **plurals**, as well as learning how to use the negative form to describe what they do and do not have in their pencil cases. By the end of the unit, they will be gaining the confidence to hold short, functional conversations entirely in French.



## PSHE

In this unit, Year 4 will explore what it means to keep their bodies and minds healthy. We will be looking at the physical effects of exercise on the body, the importance of a balanced diet, and the impact of certain substances, such as alcohol and smoking, on our health. Beyond physical health, the children will also focus on emotional well-being, discussing "emergency" procedures for basic first aid and learning how to make healthy choices when faced with peer pressure.

