

April 2026

Year 4

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a restful Easter break. The children should feel proud of all they achieved in their learning last term; it was a busy and productive few months! There are lots more opportunities for learning and growth ahead this term, and we are pleased to be settling back into our routines.

English

This term, we will focus on inspirational people. We will read the story of Malala and we will write biographies of the people who inspire us. Throughout these writing activities, we focus on using conjunctions to link clauses, as well as using the possessive apostrophe for singular and plural nouns. I will ask the children to discuss inspirational people at home, so it would be really helpful if you could take time to talk to your child about the people who inspire you.

We will read *Zoo* by Anthony Browne and *Rainbow Bear* by Michael Morpurgo. The children will then use fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to write a persuasive article on an animal-related topic of their choice.

We will also read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and build key writing skills such as using dialogue, fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. They will finish the unit by writing their own version of the narrative in a different world.

In addition, we will spend some time reading poems and will write our own Haikus.

We are working hard on improving our vocabulary choices in Year 4. Please ask your children to discuss some of the vocabulary that they are learning in school and focus on using the spellings each week to create sentences. This will make the words come to life for the children and it will be then much more likely that they will remember and use this vocabulary in their writing.

Mathematics

This term, we will revise the work covered so far and will continue to build on and develop these concepts and skills- understanding place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and fractions. We will begin by working more on understanding decimals and we will go on to focus on understanding geometry (shape, position and direction), measure (length, weight, capacity, time) and statistics (bar-charts, line graphs and pictograms). The children will be given ongoing opportunities to practise their reasoning and problem-solving skills and reflect on these. We shall continue to practise mental calculations regularly. At home, you could provide some extra support by talking with your children about the time. This could be getting them to read the clock, convert to the 24-hour clock or find out information from a timetable. You could ask them to solve simple questions based on TV schedules (i.e. how long a programme lasts.) This will be useful for all children, as the concept of time can be particularly challenging.

PSHE

This term in PSHE, we will learn about goal-setting, safety, money, healthy relationships and preparing for transition. Children will build on their prior learning by setting 'Big Dream Goals' and developing perseverance, learn how to stay safe at home and when out and about, explore money choices and financial responsibility, and begin thinking about future

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jobs and aspirations. They will also take part in an Expect Respect lesson on healthy friendships, inclusion and consent, and will reflect on their achievements as they prepare positively for moving to a new class.

Other Subjects

This term in Computing, children will develop their programming skills by creating simple codes, sequencing instructions and debugging errors. They will also compose their own digital beats, experimenting with rhythm and sound. Finally, they will be introduced to artificial intelligence, learning what AI is, how it is used, and how to engage with it safely and responsibly.

Our Science topics this term will be 'Sound' and 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.' The children will be setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests. They will be encouraged to make careful observations and take accurate measurements using a range of equipment.

In the second half of term, we will be learning about sound in Science. The children will investigate how sound is formed and how variations in pitch and volume occur. Again, we will continue to develop enquiry skills, encouraging the children to ask relevant questions and to set up investigations to test predictions.

Our topic-work will have a Geography focus. We will look at where certain countries of the world are located, and some of the ways geographers describe locations. We will learn to locate and describe places using longitude and latitude and find out about some of the important lines that delineate specific areas of the Earth - the Equator, the Hemispheres, the Poles and the Tropics. We will learn about the Water Cycle and the way in which water is treated. We will also talk about the issue of water pollution and the responsibility that we have to protect our environment.

In RE lessons, we will be learning about and reflecting on the following topics:

- For Christians, when Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?
- How and why do people mark the significant events of life?

PE lessons will be on a **Monday** and **Wednesday** this term. On Mondays, we will be swimming. Each week, the children must bring a swimming costume, a towel, a swimming cap and goggles. We will be travelling by coach and will be back before the end of the school day. On a Wednesday, we will focus on outdoor adventure activities.

In Art, we will look at the work of the artist, Adrian Margey, and will use his work to inspire our own acrylic paintings. Our DT focus will be 'mechanisms' and will create Pop-up posters.

Jèrriais

This term, we are participating in a cross-curricular programme called "Alentou d'Jèrri." This programme is designed to teach children all about Jersey's history, geography, folklore and culture. The ten-week course will take place each Thursday. Children will learn about the history of the island, going right back to when Jersey first became an island, then on to the Neolithic period, the story of St Helier, right through to the cod fishing trade and much more. We will have opportunities to learn traditional Jersey games, songs and dances, as well as some basic Jèrriais phrases and vocabulary. Mrs Bond will be in school to deliver these sessions.

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Music

We will be learning to play the violin in Music. Jersey Music Service will be in school on a Tuesday morning to facilitate these sessions. Each child will get their own violin to take home for the duration of this programme and they should bring it to school on a Tuesday morning. Please encourage your child to practise what we have learned each week in class. Our last session will be a short performance that you will be invited to attend.

Homework

It is very important that the children start to develop good attitudes and practices towards homework. A little each night is much better than leaving it to the last minute.

Spellings –

New spellings are given on a Friday by Mr Gallichan and they will be tested on a Friday. These should be practised in spelling books on four separate days.

Reading – Your child should continue to read nightly for 15 minutes. In Year 4, although they will have whole class/guided reading sessions as normal in school, they will not necessarily bring home reading material from these sessions. Therefore, children can read their library book or any material of their choice. Please ensure that you sign your child's reading record book each night to show what they have read. It will also help your child if you could discuss the books with them, asking them to summarise a chapter, explain the meanings of a few words or talk about changes in text type. You could ask them to explain a character's feelings/motives or what may happen next. This is important, as it will help your child to improve on and develop their comprehension skills.

Times Tables Practice: The expectation is that children will know all multiplication and division facts up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4, so children should practise these each night. This regular practice will give them the best chance of committing these to memory. They should complete 28 games over the course of each week and we will have our test on a **Thursday**. The children can earn pebbles and Dojo points for completing their homework, so we would appreciate your support with this.

Scout Centre Trip

Over the past few years, we have noticed that many Year 4 children have increasingly struggled to sleep during overnight stays. As a result, we have reviewed and adapted our residential provision across Key Stage 2.

This year, Year 4 will take part in **two days at the Scout Centre**, without an overnight stay. Children will be **collected at 7pm on Thursday 4th June** and will return to the Centre at **8.30am on Friday 5th June**.

Further information will be shared closer to the time.

Additional Information:

As it is the summer term, please ensure your child has a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream where appropriate. Hopefully the sun will shine for us!

Dates for the diary:

Class Assembly: Wednesday 17th June (2.15pm)

Trip to Mont Orgueil Castle: Thursday 25th June (packed lunch needed)

Violin Performance: Tuesday 30th June (8.50am/9am- TBC closer to time)

I hope that you find all of this information useful. As always, if you have any questions relating to anything mentioned in this letter or any other matter throughout the term, please don't hesitate contact me.

Yours faithfully,
Claire McMenamin

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