



Year 4 – Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. We hope that you all had a lovely and restful holiday. We have been impressed so far by the children's settled start to the year and their motivation and enthusiasm for learning. We are all looking forward to teaching your child and ensuring that they continue to make progress throughout the year.

English

Your child will continue to have daily English and guided reading lessons this year. They will further develop skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing through studying a variety of fiction texts, non-fiction texts and poetry; using these shared texts as inspiration for their own written pieces. At Whitehall School, we are passionate for the children to experience a wide variety of texts to ignite their passion for reading. This term the children will read the novels, 'Varjak Paw' (by S. F. Said) and 'Coming to England' (by Floella Benjamin). In addition to this, your child will read a range of poetry and short stories which are part of our Literacy and Language scheme.



We will continue to have weekly comprehension lessons where we will explicitly teach retrieval, inference and summarisation skills, therefore further supporting your child's development of their comprehension skills.

We will be persevering with our handwriting scheme with the aim of continuing to improve the presentation of work and handwriting across all subjects. It is very helpful, if at home, you reiterate the importance of good presentation when your child is completing their homework.



Mathematics

In **mathematics**, children will build on the knowledge and understanding gained in Year 3. During this term, children will focus on: number, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division mental and written methods, problem solving, fractions, shape, and space and measures. Once again, your support is greatly appreciated. Please help your child to learn their multiplication tables up to 12x12 and develop their rapid recall of pairs of numbers to make 10, 20 and 100: e.g. $4+6=10$, $17+3=20$ and $23+77=100$. By the end of Year 4, children should know **all** of their times tables and this year your child will be expected to sit the Government's online 'Multiplication Tables Check' test in June.

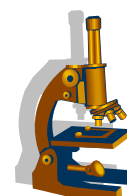
Your child will be given weekly mental arithmetic tests and Times Table Rockstar tests to further support them in developing their mental calculation skills. 'Mathletics' is an excellent website for the children to use in order to practise their mental maths skills as well as games/activities which

are designed to support and practise areas of mathematics which they find challenging - this website has a link from your child's class webpage.



Science

The BBC website provides excellent background reading and interactive activities for your child's learning in Science. This term your child will study two topics. For the topic 'Animals, including Humans', the children will learn about the different types of teeth and their functions as well as discovering about the human digestive system. Their second science unit is called 'Living Things and their Habitats' where the children will enjoy learning about the habitats of different creatures and how to classify plants or animals using a classification key.



P.E. will be taught both indoor and out. Please send your child into school wearing their P.E kit on Mondays and Wednesdays.

History

We are excited to begin our History topic on the Romans and will then be followed by the Anglo-Saxons. The children will learn about how the Romans conquered Britain and the significance of Boudicca. During their learning of the Anglo- Saxons, they will learn about how they cooked, travelled and used different weapons.



PSHE

Personal, social, health and economic education is extremely important for all children, especially in the current climate where life has not been what we are used to. During PSHE lessons, we will continue to develop an understanding of the world around us by engaging in rich discussion. We will be continuing our PSHE scheme which, in the Autumn term, will focus on 'Health and Well-being'. This theme covers topics such as, setting goals, healthy eating, physical and mental health.



PSHE

Music

In music, we use the Charanga scheme of learning. The first unit of work is focused around one song: Mamma Mia by ABBA. In the second half term our music lesson will focus on learning about the language of music through playing the glockenspiel. The learning is focussed around exploring and developing playing skills through the glockenspiel.

Art and DT

Within our art lessons we will be exploring the work of different artists focusing on 'Celtic Landscapes'. Our lessons will explore the techniques of marbling. In DT, we will be looking at properties of stiff materials to design and make a Roman shield, as well as understanding and using mechanical and electrical components to create a catapult.

Year 4 Homework

Your child has been issued with a new planner. At the back there are pages of useful information for all subject areas - please do spend some time with your child exploring these pages.

Homework this year will consist of:

- A minimum of 15 minutes daily reading to be recorded in the planner.
- Times tables and number facts to be practised regularly at home for our weekly mental arithmetic test.
- Weekly spellings issued on Monday and tested on Friday.
- Weekly CGP Books: assigned Grammar, Punctuation and spelling task, Comprehension task and Mathematics task (due in on a Monday).



Snacks

As part of Hillingdon Healthy Schools, we have established healthy rules in our everyday routines. These include children bringing in a **personal water bottle (named)** that contains **water only**. They may use the bottles to sip from to keep them hydrated throughout the day. At snack times, we encourage children to bring a **healthy fruit or vegetable snack**. Part of our healthy lifestyle education is to teach children that what they put into their bodies affects how they function and behave at school.

We are encouraging families to exploit talk and vocabulary use with their children based on the topics which are being covered in school. Research is showing that the more talk and vocabulary children are exposed to, to greater progress and attainment achieved.

Therefore, please see below a list of vocabulary which your child will be exposed to this term in their learning. We are asking you to support us in the use of these words outside the classroom to deepen your child's understanding of these terms.

Below is a list of vocabulary that your child will be exposed to during their learning this term. It would be beneficial to discuss these words to your child to deepen your child's understanding of these terms,

Mathematics Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
multiples	A quantity obtained by multiplication. The product of a quantity by an integer when something exists in multiple forms.
negative	A negative number is a real number that is less than zero. Negative numbers represent opposites.
order	An arrangement of items in a sequence .
compare	To examine in order, to note the similarities or differences of.
inverse	Reversed (turned backward) in order or nature or effect.
operation	Calculation by mathematical methods.
facts	Something proven to be true.
factors	A number or quantity that when multiplied with another produces a given number or expression.
commutativity	giving the same result whatever order the values are in.
distributive law	Multiplying a number by a group of numbers added together is the same as doing each multiplication separately.
equivalent	<i>Equivalent's</i> Latin roots are "equal" and "value,"
quantities	How much there is, or how many there are of something that you can quantify.
round	Expressed to the nearest integer, ten, hundred, or thousand.
decimal	A decimal is a fraction written in a special form. Instead of writing $\frac{1}{2}$, for example, you can express the fraction as the <i>decimal</i> 0.5.
convert	A second may be one-sixtieth of a minute or the item after first.
seconds	A second may be one-sixtieth of a minute or the item after first.
minutes	A unit of time equal to 60 seconds or $\frac{1}{60}$ th of an hour.
hours	An hour is a unit of time — it's sixty minutes, 3,600 seconds, or the length it takes the long hand on your watch to move in a full circle.
geometric	The Greek roots of <i>geometry</i> literally mean "to measure earth," Also, the pure mathematics of points and lines and curves and surfaces.
triangle	A triangle is a polygon, which is a closed shape like a square or a hexagon, but a triangle has only three sides.
quadrilateral	A quadrilateral is a four-sided polygon, like a square, rectangle, or rhombus.
acute	An angle less than 90 degrees but more than 0 degrees.
obtuse	An angle between 90 and 180 degrees.
symmetry	The correspondence in size, form, and arrangement of parts on opposite sides of a plane, line, or point.
isosceles	Triangle with two sides that are the exact same length. The angles across from each equal side are also the same.
equilateral	The sides of a regular polygon are all equal in length and so are the interior angles.
scalene	A triangle with no equal sides in length, or no equal angles.
quadrant	Anything that's split into four equal parts can be described as being made up of quadrants. When a circle is evenly divided into four sections by two perpendicular lines, each of the four areas is a quadrant.

translation	A transformation in which the origin of the coordinate system is moved to another position but the direction of each axis remains the same, i.e. without rotation.
polygon	A polygon is a closed two-dimensional shape with straight sides.
discrete	Discrete means separate or divided. A discrete unit is separate part of something larger.
continuous	Continuous describes something that occurs over space or time without interruption.

Science Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
classification	The assignment of organisms to groups within a system of categories distinguished by structure, origin, etc.
vertebrate	Having vertebrae; having a backbone or spinal column.
invertebrate	Of or relating to creatures without a backbone.
recognise	To identify from knowledge of appearance or characteristics.
characteristics	Pertaining to, constituting, or indicating the character or peculiar quality of a person or thing; typical; distinctive.
environment	The air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at any time.
climate	A region or area characterized by a given climate.
herbivore	An animal that feeds on grass and other plants.
carnivore	Any other animal or any plant that feeds on animals.
omnivore	An organism that eats both plants and animals.
digestive system	The system by which ingested food is acted upon by physical and chemical means to provide the body with absorbable nutrients and to excrete waste products; in mammals the system includes the alimentary canal extending from the mouth to the anus, and the hormones and enzymes assisting in digestion.
producer	An autotrophic organism that serves as a source of food for other organisms in a food chain. Producers include green plants, which produce food through photosynthesis, and certain bacteria that are capable of converting inorganic substances into food through chemosynthesis. Compare consumer.
consumer	An organism, usually an animal, that feeds on plants or other animals.
predator	Any organism that exists by preying upon other organisms.

As well as this, on your child's class page on the school website you will see '**Year 4 Autumn Term Knowledge Mats**'. This is a wonderful resource which you can share with your child to further support them in the learning which they are covering this term.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that weekly homework is completed appropriately and returned promptly, as well as you ensuring your child's daily reading is completed at home and signed. We truly hope that you use the key

vocabulary and knowledge mats with your child to enhance talk and deepen vocabulary understanding: this is one way in which you as parents and the Year 4 staff can work together to assist your child to reach his or her fullest potential.

We are very much looking forward to this term and hope that your children are too. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress or welfare please do not hesitate to come and see us. You can usually speak to the class teachers immediately after school in the playground or alternatively, you can email the Year 4 email address:

year4@whitehallschool.org and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to a lovely year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Sharma, Mrs Azeem, Mrs Perez and Mx Spacey-Mageean,
Year 4 Class teachers
September 2026