



WELCOME PACK FOR PARENTS

Year 4

2023-2024



“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”—Proverbs 22:6

Welcome

As your child starts their journey in Year 4, we encourage them to have a love of learning and to develop their independence. This booklet is designed to support your child's transition into this new school year. It provides information about what your child will be learning in school and how you can support them at home.

If there is anything that you or your child is keen to know about what happens in Year 4 at Forsbrook C.E. Primary School which is not covered below, please do not hesitate to ask.

Meet the Staff

Our Year 4 teaching team is:

Miss Thake – Class Teacher

Mrs Bickerton – Teaching Assistant

Our School Day

Children will enter school via the door by the KS2 playground.

08.35 – Doors open

08.45 – Learning begins

10.25 - 10.45 – Collective Worship

10.45 -11.00 – Break time

12.00 – 13.00 – Lunchtime

15.15 – End of school day

Class routines and information

During the Autumn Term, PE will take place every Tuesday and Thursday. In the Spring term, PE will take place on Tuesdays and Fridays as the children will be swimming on a Friday. Your child should come fully dressed in their PE kit on the days on which they have PE. **During PE lessons, jewellery MUST be removed - if ears are pierced, please ensure your child can remove earrings themselves or are provided with plasters.**

Equipment

Each child has access to a small, individual locker which can be used to store their personal items, e.g., coat, packed lunch. Please note that appropriate stationery will be provided so pencil cases are not required. Children are expected to take responsibility for these resources and their own belongings. Parents are asked to ensure that all garments and personal property are clearly named. Toys (including balls and skipping ropes) are not allowed at school except in specific circumstances, such as end-of-term parties or projects.

iPads

All children in Year 4 will have access to their own iPad which will be used to support and enhance their learning within the classroom.

Water bottle

Staying hydrated is conducive to learning. Please encourage your child to bring a reusable, named bottle of water to school each day. This will be kept on or near their desk and can be topped up as required using the water fountains.

Snacks/Tuck

KS2 pupils can bring in a **healthy snack** from home to eat during morning breaktime. Toast and bagels are also available to purchase. These should be ordered daily and paid for in advance on Parent Pay.

Toast – 30p

Bagels – 35p

School Dinners

Pupils can choose to have a school dinner or bring a healthy packed lunch from home. The lunch menu must be chosen and paid for in advance via the school's 'Parent Pay' system.

Timetable & Curriculum Overview

	8:35-8.45am Registration/ Morning Activities	8.45am - 9:25am	9:25am - 10:25am	10:25am 10:45am	10:45am - 11am	11am - 12pm	12pm - 1pm	1pm - 1:15pm	1.15pm - 2.15pm	2.15pm - 3pm		3pm - 3:15pm
Monday	Registration / Morning Task	Guided reading	ENGLISH	W o r k i n g	B R E A K	MATHS	L U N C H	D.E.A.R time	Science		Times tables (15 mins)	Class read
Tuesday	Registration / Morning Task	Guided reading	ENGLISH			MATHS		Y4 PPA - PE 1pm - 1:45pm	Y4 PPA - Music (Entrust)	Y4 PPA - Spanish (SD) 2:30pm - 3:15pm		
Wednesday	Registration / Morning Task	Guided reading	ENGLISH			MATHS		D.E.A.R time	Geography	RE (45 mins)	Times tables (15 mins)	Class read
Thursday	Registration / Morning Task	Guided reading	ENGLISH			MATHS		D.E.A.R time	Computing	Art / DT		Class read
Friday	Registration / Morning Task	Arithmetic Test	Spelling & Handwriting			MATHS		D.E.A.R time	Heart Smart (30 mins)	Swimming		Class read

Please note that this is subject to change due to events taking place in school.

Our curriculum overviews can be found on the Curriculum page on the school website.

Homework

Homework books containing optional tasks will be sent home at the beginning of each half-term. The tasks will all be linked to current topics, enable children to practise and consolidate skills, and extend the learning from the classroom. Efforts will be rewarded with Power Points. We look forward to celebrating the wonderful creations that your children produce at home!

Spelling

At the beginning of each half-term, parents will receive a list of spelling words which shows the spelling patterns and spelling list words we will be focusing on each week in school. Children will be tested on the assigned spellings each week. After the weekly test, your child will highlight all words they spelt correctly on their spelling lists so that they know which spellings they need to continue to practise. Please encourage your child to regularly practise their spellings at home.



Maths

Times tables' knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving, as well as for many of the units children study in KS2 (division, fractions, percentages). By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all times tables and related division facts up to x12 and are encouraged to use the Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) programme to regularly practise and consolidate facts.



In June 2024 (date to be confirmed), Year 4 children will take part in the national statutory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). The test will assess how well each child knows their multiplication tables up to 12x12, using an online testing tool.

How will the test work?

Children will answer multiplication questions against the clock on a computer or tablet, with 6 seconds to answer each one-mark question in a series of 25. The test will last no longer than 5 minutes and will be marked instantly. Each question will be presented in this format: $8 \times 4 =$

Questions will be selected from the 121 number facts that make up the multiplication tables from 2 to 12, with a particular focus on the 6, 7-, 8-, 9- and 12-times tables as they are considered to be the most challenging. Each question will only appear once in any 25-question series, and children won't be asked to answer question reversals (so if they've answered 3×4 they won't be asked about 4×3). Multiplication facts will be the only things tested (there will be no problem solving or division facts in the check). Children will practise the test format before the official check begins.

What if a child doesn't do well in the check?

There will be no "pass mark" and no child will "fail" the test. However, we expect children to obtain a score of at least 20 out of 25. The DfE states that the purpose of the check is to help teachers identify which children are falling behind.

School-level results won't be made publicly available or be used in league tables but will inform teachers which children require additional support.

Home support

Please help your child with times tables practise. Because the National Curriculum for maths is so extensive, there is an expectation that parents will help their children learn their times tables at home and not rely exclusively on schools to bring them up to speed. Some of the techniques you can use include:

- practising times tables by rote (old-fashioned chanting of each multiplication table).
- asking your child times tables questions out of order, e.g., 'What's 11×12 ? What's 5×6 ?'
- asking your child related division facts: 'What's 8×4 ? What's $32 \div 4$?'
- using arrays to help your child memorise times tables – you can use fun objects like Smarties or Lego bricks to make it more entertaining.
- using apps and games to help build speed, e.g., Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS). This activity mirrors the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). The children have accessed this at school and should know how to navigate the website.



When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to complete harder calculations.

Times Tables Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables. To be a Times Tables Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12×12 in less than 3 seconds!

The goal is for all participating rockers to be Times Tables Rock Stars after 20 weeks.

World famous rock musicians are the best at what they do because they've spent hours practising guitar chords, writing music, or playing on the drums. It's just the same with times tables – all Times Tables Rock Stars need to practise, practise, and practise some more.

Short bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week. This is where you come in! For your child to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of the practise, they need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, without you sitting down next to them or checking their work, practising times tables will not feel important to your child.

Our recommendation is that you are there to help them three evenings a week for half an hour during the first two weeks. This will help to establish a routine. After that, we recommend that you help your child get started for the first 10 minutes and then check on them at the end.

Over the course of the next few weeks and months, your child WILL get faster and more accurate with the times tables. All your hard work and theirs WILL make them a Times Tables Rock Star!

To log in:

1. Type ttrackstars.com into your browser's address bar or google 'Times Tables Rock Stars'.
2. Log in. Usernames and passwords can be found at the front of your child's home/school link diary.

Please contact me if...

- you have username or password issues; something isn't working or you are not sure how it works.

OTHER USEFUL MATHS WEBSITES:

www.topmarks.co.uk

Hit the button

Daily 10

Coconut multiples

Mental Maths train

Maths fishing

BBC:

Maths Super Movers – times tables songs

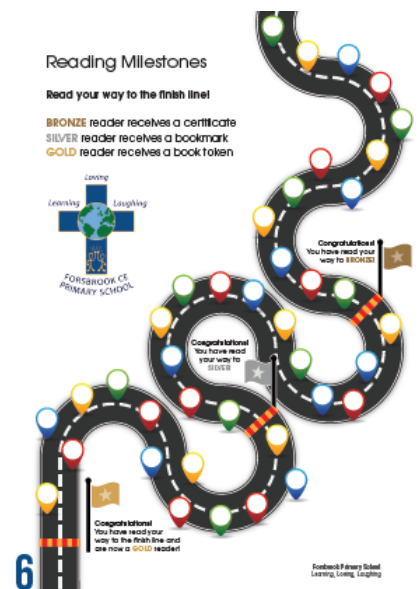
Multiplication games

Reading

Regular reading helps to develop and strengthen various essential skills which will underpin progress across the curriculum. Children in Year 4 are expected to read 4 times a week at home. Please sign your child's home/school diary to indicate that they have read.

On a Monday morning, we will check your child's diary and stamp the bottom of the page if they have read at least 4 times. This will then gain them a star on the 'Reading Road to Success'. For every week your child reads at least four times at home, they will take another step along the road. When they reach the bronze finish line, they will receive a certificate. Their next goal is silver, where they will receive a special bookmark. They then head towards gold; the ultimate goal, where they receive a book token.

Your child will now be developing confidence and increasing independence in what they choose to read. However, they still need you to guide them. The following suggestions will help you to keep a good balance between reading for enjoyment across a range of interests, developing the skills to help your child read fluently and encouraging independence.



Shared reading

1. It's good to share!

Hearing a story read to you (rather than watching a story on TV or as a film) is hugely important for developing reading skills, but it's also a relaxing routine which prepares children for a good night's sleep. Hearing a story read out loud also means that children can have access to books that may as yet be too challenging to read alone – you can whet their appetite!

2. Open up the world of reading.



Share the variety of your reading, for example, books, magazines, websites, and apps, with your child to show how reading can help you to follow your interests. Help them to join blogs, online communities and clubs that link to their hobbies, whether it's swimming, football, dance, or music.

Always check that any online communities children sign up to are safe and monitor their use of them.

Developing fluency and understanding

1. Encourage predictions.

When reading stories, good readers are always thinking ahead to start to work out what might happen next. You can help your child become better at this by asking key questions such as: '*I wonder if ... will happen? Who do you think will...?*'

2. Research for homework

Your child may be asked to investigate a topic or find answers to questions set in class. You can help them with their research skills by talking about where to look to find the answers, although you may need to remind them to look in books and use the library as well as the internet. Children can struggle with information overload so could need your help to 'search and sift' both sites and information to make decisions.

Building independence

1. Valuing choice

It's important to value your child's choices even when a book looks too easy or difficult. Children can read books that appear challenging (especially if it is a topic that interests them) but you'll need to guide them through tricky words, ideas or even the layout of an information book.

2. Not giving up – Resilience!

As children read more challenging books, be aware that there might be times when they struggle and may seem reluctant to continue – you can help them through those patches by reading a bit with them to get them started or hooked into the next chapter. Always balance this with sensitivity and valuing their choice – it's got to be fun.

Accelerated Reader

Children will choose school reading books according to their reading zone. Each half-term, children will take an Accelerated Star Reader Test which will determine which “zone” they should be choosing books from. All books in our class library are labelled in this way but children are also welcome to read books from home which fall within their reading zone. You can check the “zone” of a book using the following website: www.arbookfind.co.uk

If you need any advice on choosing suitable reading material, please ask. A list of 100 recommended reads for Year 4 can also be accessed via: <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year4>

Behaviour

We have a restorative approach towards behaviour which is underpinned by our school values: Love, Joy, Peace, Hope, Friendship, Compassion, Respect, and Courage. Our behaviour policy can be found on the school website <https://forsbrookprimaryschool.co.uk/policies>

Additional Information

Trips

As part of our broad and balanced curriculum, we endeavour to provide our pupils with hands-on learning experiences. In Year 4, this will include the following trips:

Wednesday 8th November 2023 – Anglo-Saxon and Viking workshops at Tamworth Castle.

Wednesday 10th April 2024 – River Studies workshop at Wolseley Bridges.

More information will be sent out closer to the trip.

Bikeability

Year 4 children have the opportunity to take part in the Bikeability Level 2 course in November (date to be confirmed). We would encourage all children to take part in this activity. Please speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns.

How you can help

- It is still important to hear your child read each week, even in Year 4. Talk to them about what they are reading and encourage a set time each day to read at home so that it becomes part of their routine.
- Talk to your child about what they are learning in school.

Contact details

It is very important that we are kept up to date with your current contact details in case we need to get in touch with you via the school text message service/a telephone call. For those of you who do wish to receive school information via email and have not done so before, please inform the school office – admin@forsbrook.staffs.sch.uk

Office contact details: admin@forsbrook.staffs.sch.uk

Phone number: 01782 392577

Website link: www.forsbrook.staffs.sch.uk

And finally... we operate an open-door policy. If you require further information or clarification on any of the points raised above, or you have any concerns during the year ahead, please do not hesitate to contact me via your child's home/school diary or by calling/emailing the school office. I'm here to help!

I hope that you have found this document useful. Here's to a wonderful year of learning and working together to help your child to be the best that they can be.

Many thanks,

Miss Thake

Year 4 Class Teacher