

Key events:

NSPCC Number Day 2024 – 7th February
Children’s Mental Health Week 2025 – w/c 3rd February
Safer Internet Day 2025 – Tuesday 11th February
4EB class assembly – Thursday 13th February
(Please note that our next trip will take place in the second half of the Spring term, nearer to the Easter holidays. Details to follow soon)

PE This half term, our units are:



Gymnastics – The children will create complex sequences, learn a wider range of travelling actions and inverted movements, while also exploring ways to include apparatus.

Tennis – The children will develop the key skills required for tennis such as the ready position, racket control and forehand and backhand ground strokes, while also learning how to score points and use skills, strategies and tactics to outwit the opposition.

PE lessons take place twice a week and all children must have their correct PE kit in school. Children can only be excused if they have a letter from home.

Art

During this half term (and some of next), each class will work with our guest artist, Helen, for 3 weeks on a special project exploring ‘**projection**’. They will be using an overhead projector to create images in different ways: making silhouettes and shadows, playing with objects and drawing and painting onto acetate using transparent paints. This will also allow them to explore scale and transparency (overlapping colours/colour theory). The outcome will be a series of still images which can be printed out and displayed and possibly a film that can be shared with family and the school community.

Introduction

To kick-start 2025, we have some exciting units that the children will be covering during this first half of the spring term.
Please read our newsletter to discover the exciting learning opportunities planned for this half term!

The Year 4 teachers are:

Mrs Kelly Brady (Year Group Leader)
Miss Emily Bairstow
Miss Munira Haffeji
Miss Snowbar Mohamed (student teacher 4KB)

Support Staff:
Michael Waterston (Mr Mike)

The year group email address is:
year4@winns.waltham.sch.uk

Home Learning

Homework: Set fortnightly on Fridays and two weeks to complete. Will consist of spellings (including Spelling Shed), grammar, times tables practice (including TT Rockstars) and consolidation of recent maths learning.

Reading: We encourage a minimum of 20 minutes reading at home every evening. Entries should be written in Reading Records, which will be collected and checked once a week.



Science



This half term, we will be learning about ‘**States of Matter**’. In this unit, the children will compare and group materials into solids, liquids and gases. They will observe how materials change state when they are heated and cooled and measure the temperature at which changes take place. The children will understand the processes of evaporation and condensation in the context of the water cycle and make links between the rates of evaporation with the change in temperature.

Geography (double unit)

This half-term, our geography topic is ‘**My Region and Campania**’.

In this unit, the children will learn about the world and how it is represented on maps. They will discover the different countries and capital cities of Europe before specifically focusing on Italy (its human and physical features) and then the Campania region in particular. The children will learn about plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes and complete two case studies. They will then compare their own region to Campania and establish similarities and differences between the two.

How to support your children at home

- Read with your child at home as much you can.
- Ask questions about their learning and the books that they are reading.
- Go through homework with them.
- Test them on their spellings and times tables to check fluency.

English

Reading: the children will read a variety of carefully selected books and texts to focus on the skills of prediction, vocabulary, retrieval, inference and summarising.

Writing: Using the book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit, the children will produce a newspaper report retelling the events of Mount Vesuvius erupting.

PSHE

This half term, our themes will be:

'Being Responsible' with a focus on *'Coming Home on Time'*.

'Feelings and Emotions' with a focus on *'Jealousy'*.

We will also cover additional content and activities on Safer Internet Day and throughout Children's Mental Health Week and continue to have a worry box in each of our classrooms for the children to use it if they need to.

Music

In addition to their twice-weekly piano lessons, the children will also continue having an additional music lesson each week delivered by Miss Helsing from Sing Education. In those lessons this half term, they will be further honing their ensemble skills, incorporating melody and accompaniment using either the glockenspiel or recorder and understanding the interplay between the two.

In their piano lessons, the children will decode the right position for given pieces and compose their own detailed finger songs. They will also independently apply musical details such as articulation (staccato, legato) and dynamics (forte, piano, crescendo) when both playing and composing.



Maths

This half term, we will be covering the following units:



Number: Multiplication and Division

The children have already begun this unit by learning to multiply and divide by 3, 6 and 9, using both concrete and pictorial methods to solve a range of questions. They then progressed onto multiplying and dividing by 7, 11, 12, 10, 100, 1 and 0 using a range of methods to solve fluency, reasoning and problem-solving questions. By the end of the unit, they will also be able to solve multiplication and division problems up to and including 3-digits by 1-digit using a variety of methods.

Measurement: Length and Perimeter

The children will learn equivalent lengths (mm, cm, m and km) and move onto measuring the perimeter of rectilinear shapes and polygons.

Weekly Schedules:

PE days:

4KB – Tuesday and Thursday

4EB – Monday and Thursday

4MH – Monday and Tuesday

Library visits:

4KB – Every Wednesday

4EB – Every Thursday

4MH – Every Wednesday

Final Word / Important Points

Please encourage your child to practise their multiplication tables and spellings by regularly logging onto the below sites, as this forms part of their homework. Your child should know their login details however, please contact us if you need them reset.

TT Rockstars - <https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

Spelling Shed - <https://play.edshed.com/>

Computing

Website Design

In this unit, the children will design and create their own websites, considering content and style, as well as understanding the importance of working collaboratively.

MFL (French)



En classe (In class)

In this unit, the children will gain the knowledge and skills to present both orally and in written form about what they have and do not have in their pencil cases and/or school bag in French. This is a unit that focuses on recycling previously learnt grammar, however, this time, they will be using it with new vocabulary and a better understanding of the negative form, demonstrating a growing ability to create independent responses.

RE

Our key question this half term is:



What can we learn from religions about deciding what is right and wrong?

In this unit, the children will give examples of rules for living from religions and suggest ways in which they might help believers with difficult decisions. The children will make connections between stories of temptation and why people can find it difficult to be good and give examples of ways in which some inspirational people have been guided by their religion. The children will discuss their own and others' ideas about how people decide right and wrong.