

Welcome to Year 4!

To kick-start our first half term in Year 4, we have some exciting units that the children will be covering. Please read on to discover the fantastic learning opportunities planned for Autumn 1.

Autumn 1



Our Year 4 team

Contact us: year4@winns.waltham.sch.uk

Teachers:

Mrs. Brady (Year Group Leader)
Miss Bairstow
Miss Hamilton-Brown
Mr Waterston (Trainee teacher in 4KB)

Support staff:

Miss Zoey
Miss Shelby
Miss Amy
Miss Elena



Key events

(See also school website, weekly bulletin or subscribe to our school calendar)

10th September
Online Parent Induction Meeting (Teams)

1st October
National Poetry Day

w/c 14th September
After-School clubs start

w/c 19th October
Parent Consultation Meetings

26th September
European day of Languages

w/c 26th October
Half term

October
Black History Month

2nd November
INSET Day



Our week

P.E days:

4KB - Monday & Thursday
4EB - Tuesday and Thursday
4PH - Monday & Tuesday



Please ensure your child has a **complete and labelled** PE kit, comprising of a white t-shirt, black bottoms and suitable trainers or plimsolls. PE kits remain in school for the duration of the half term.

Library days:

4KB - Monday
4EB - Thursday
4PH - Friday



Please note that, on occasion, library days can change.

Design and Technology

At the Winns, we alternate between Art and D.T. each half term. This half term, we will be focusing on D.T. and the theme is: **‘Electrical Systems – Lamps/Torches’**.

In this unit, the children will learn about torches, lamps and other electrical devices. They will then apply their scientific understanding of electrical circuits (from our Autumn 1 Science unit) to create a working lamp or torch made from easily available materials and objects. The children will also design and evaluate their end products against set design criteria.



Science

Electricity.

In this unit, the children will construct simple circuits, using different components, such as bulbs and switches. They will discover which materials conduct electricity to complete a circuit. They will also learn about electrical safety and which materials are insulators.



P.S.H.E.

At the start of the term, the children will be reminded of the NSPCC’s ‘PANTS’ rules and the importance of understanding that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

The children will also be reminded to use the class worry box when/if they need to. This will then lead to further discussions about **‘Support Networks’**. They will also learn about **‘Keeping Safe’** with a focus on **Cycle Safety**.



Writing

To inspire the children in Writing lessons, we will focus learning around high quality texts. The first of which will be **‘Tuesday’**, a wordless picture book by the highly acclaimed illustrator David Wiesner. It tells the tale of a series of animal invasions that strike at a particular time and place, namely Tuesday evenings, with frogs invading the skies in their hundreds of thousands, flying around on lily pads! After invading backyards and sitting rooms, the neighbourhood are completely baffled the morning after, when the town is littered with abandoned lily pads. It is a great inexplicable mystery!



After some focused grammar and vocabulary skills lessons, the children will plan and create their own descriptive narratives based on the sequence of images throughout the book.

Towards the end of the half-term, the children will also be writing diary entries using Floella Benjamin’s **‘Coming to England’** as our stimulus.

Maths

Number - Place Value

We will be building on prior learning from Year 3 by working with numbers up to 1,000 to ensure the children are secure on this knowledge before moving into 10,000. The children will use number lines and count and represent numbers in different ways. They will learn how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 and to find 1, 10, 100 and 1000 more or less than a given number. They will also learn how to partition, order and compare numbers to 10,000.

Number - Addition and Subtraction

Later in the half term, the children will begin working on adding and subtracting up to two 4-digit numbers with multiple exchanges, using the formal written column method.



Reading

Whole Class Reading

In Year 4, we will continue to focus on a whole-class reading approach. The children will all be engaged in the same text, focusing on developing their prediction, vocabulary, retrieval, inference and summarising skills, as well as having in-depth conversations and discussions around the context and themes within the text they are reading.

Reading at home

Your child will take home up to two books a week, which will be chosen from the school library. We also actively encourage the children to record at least three entries in their Reading Records, alongside one parent comment or signature.



MFL - French

Je me présente (Presenting Myself)

In this unit, the children will learn to use basic greetings in French, such as asking somebody their name and how they are feeling and then replying when asked themselves. They will also learn to recall the numbers 1-10 and count from 11-20 in French to help them ask somebody how old they are and reply when asked. Building on that, they will learn to ask somebody where they live in French and reply when asked, also expressing their nationality and understanding of basic gender agreement rules.



Homework is given out fortnightly

In Year 4, homework is set fortnightly (on Fridays), with two weeks to complete, consisting of spellings (including Spelling Shed), grammar, times tables practice (including TT Rockstars) and consolidation of recent maths learning.



Final Word / Important Points

The Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) continues to be statutory for primary schools in the 2026/27 academic year. This assessment will be taken by pupils towards the end of year 4 (beg-mid June) and is focused on the fluent recall of multiplication facts (up to 12 x 12). The MTC is delivered as an online, on-screen digital assessment and will take each pupil less than 5 minutes to complete. Further details will follow later in the year and there will also be an online parent meeting about it in March to tell you everything you need to know.

Computing

We begin the term by revisiting internet safety, reminding the children of what they need to do to stay safe online. We then move on to our topic:

Collaborative Learning

This half term, the children will be learning how to work collaboratively in a responsible way, using tools including Google Docs, Sheets, Slides and Forms.



R.E.

Our key question this half term is:
Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?

This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from Christianity, exploring different reasons why Jesus is considered an inspiring figure by Christians – and by many other people too.



Music

As you will know, the children thoroughly enjoyed their sessions in the piano lab last year and already know how to play quite a few simple songs, including some duets. This year, they will continue to have one whole-class piano lesson every week as part of the special 'Keys of Inspiration' project founded by Chinese piano virtuoso Lang Lang.

In addition to their weekly piano lesson, the children will also have an additional music lesson each week delivered by a specialist teacher from Sing Education.



P.E

This half term, our units are:

Dance

The children will copy and create actions in response to an idea and be able to adapt this using changes of space.



Football

The children will be encouraged to persevere when developing competencies in key skills and principles such as defending, attacking, sending, receiving and dribbling a ball.



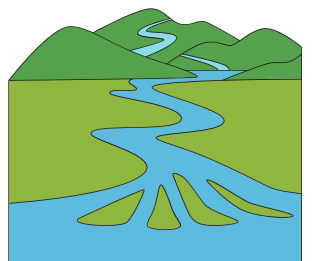
PE lessons take place twice a week and all children must have their correct PE kit in school. Children can only be excused from PE if they have a letter from home to state why.

Geography

At the Winns, we alternate Geography and History each half term. This half term we will be focusing on Geography.

This half-term, we will be learning about **Rivers**. The children will learn about where notable rivers are located in the world, how rivers shape the land through erosion and transportation of sediments, and about the different types of landforms that rivers can create. They will also learn about what happens when a river floods and why rivers are such an important part of our world.

History will be taught in Autumn 2..



Autumn 2 in Year 4!

A warm welcome to Autumn 2 in Year 4!
As the days grow colder, we're keeping ourselves busy with plenty of exciting trips and activities. Please read on to discover all of the fun learning opportunities planned for this half-term.



Key events

(See also school website, weekly bulletin or subscribe to our school calendar)

3rd November
Children return to school

5th December (tbc)
FOTW Winter Fair

w/c 9th November
After-School clubs start

9th December
Year 4 Christmas Performance at 9:10 am

10th November
Individual school photos

11th December
After-School clubs finish

15th - 21st November
Maths Week England

17th December
Year 4 Class Christmas Parties

26th November (tbc)
Year 4 trip to Hackney Empire Pantomime
(later return to school on that day)

18th December
Last day of Autumn term

Class trips to the British Museum - dates to follow soon



Our week remains the same

P.E days:

4KB - Monday & Thursday
4EB - Tuesday and Thursday
4PH - Monday & Tuesday



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Library days:

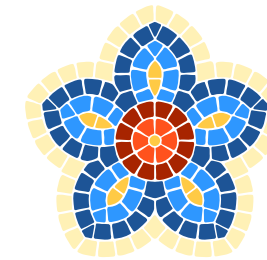
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4EB - Thursday
4PH - Friday



Please note that, on occasion, library days can change.

Art

The theme for this half term is 'Roman Mosaics'. Linking directly to our history unit, the children will explore the art of Roman mosaics, learning what mosaics are, what they were/are made from, where Romans used them and how they differ from the mosaics we see today. They will also look at the work of more modern artists such as Antoni Gaudi and Charis Tsevis for inspiration, before going on to create their own mosaic coasters, after sketching their ideas, planning their designs and arranging their tesserae to fit.



Science

Sound.

In this unit, the children will learn about vibrations and how sounds are made. They will find out about how vibrations travel through different mediums on their journey to the ear and discover why sounds get fainter as they move away from a sound source. They will also explore patterns between pitch and the object that produced it as well as the patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of its vibrations.



P.S.H.E.

The first topic that we will be covering this half term is 'Healthy Living' and then following that, we will deliver one of our 'RSE' (Relationship and Sex Education) units, which has a focus on 'Appropriate Touch'.

We will continue to have a worry box in each of our classrooms and Miss Julie's talk time box, reminding the children to use them if they need to.



Writing

Following on from our Autumn 1 unit using Floella Benjamin's 'Coming to England', the children will study performance poetry using John Agard's 'Windrush Child' as a stimulus before writing their own poems to perform. We will then use Maya Angelou's 'Still I Rise' to inspire the children to write their own powerful poetry.



Towards the end of the half-term, the children will also be writing from different character perspectives using a Roman Myth as a stimulus.

Maths

Number - Addition and Subtraction

The children will first finish working on adding and subtracting up to two 4-digit numbers with multiple exchanges. Once secure in these concepts, they will next move onto using a variety of different subtraction methods and identifying when particular methods are most efficient.

Measurement - Area

The children will be introduced to area for the first time and will learn that area is the amount space is taken up by a 2D shape or surface. Once they understand that area is measured in squares, they use the strategy of counting the number of squares in a shape to measure and compare the areas of rectilinear shapes.

Number - Multiplication and Division

The children will begin this unit learning to multiply and divide by 10 and 100. They will then progress onto multiplying and dividing by 3, 6, 9 and 7 using concrete and pictorial methods to solve a range of questions.



Reading reminders

Whole Class Reading

In Year 4, we will continue to focus on a whole-class reading approach. The children will all be engaged in the same text, focusing on developing their prediction, vocabulary, retrieval, inference and summarising skills, as well as having in-depth conversations and discussions around the context and themes within the text they are reading.

Reading at home

Your child will take home up to two books a week, which will be chosen from the school library. We also actively encourage the children to record at least three entries in their Reading Records, alongside one parent comment or signature.



MFL - French

Ma famille (My family)

In this unit, the children will be taught the knowledge and skills to make a presentation about their own/a fictitious family in both spoken and written form in French. They will start to integrate previously learnt language with newly-acquired language, encouraging more confident use of their growing bank of vocabulary. They will also be able to demonstrate an increasing knowledge of grammar and the use of the possessive in French to manipulate language, thus starting to create more personalised responses as the unit supports the change from 1st person singular to 3rd person singular.



Homework reminder

In Year 4, homework is set fortnightly (on Fridays), with two weeks to complete, consisting of spellings (including Spelling Shed), grammar, times tables practice (including TT Rockstars) and consolidation of recent maths learning.



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 resent.

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

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



Computing

Further coding with Scratch

The coding program Scratch is explored further by revisiting key features and introducing the children to the crucial concept and execution of using 'variables' in code scripts.



R.E.

Our key question this half term is:
What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?

This investigation will enable the children to learn about key aspects of Hindu belief and worship and that what we call 'Hinduism' is the diverse way of life, spiritual practices and beliefs of the Indian people. We will find out some key Hindu beliefs, and how these are expressed in thoughts and actions and think about being a Hindu in Britain today.



Music

This half-term, the children will continue to have one whole-class piano lesson every week, in which they will reinforce 'C' position and 'G' position and learn new 'A' position along with Major and Minor positions and the use of various dynamics. They will hear music from famous Baroque, Classic and Romantic composers and learn to play some new Christmas songs together.

In their other music lessons this half term, they will be exploring staff notation using the glockenspiel to expand their understanding and learn to follow and perform more complex melodies.



P.E

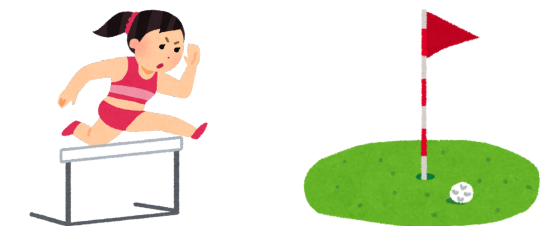
This half term, our units are:

Athletics

The children will develop basic running, jumping and throwing techniques and apply these in distance and time challenges.

Golf

The children will develop skills and apply them to striking, chipping, putting, and playing a short and long game.



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

History

At the Winns, we alternate Geography and History each half term.

This half term we will be focusing on History and learning about **Roman Britain**. In this unit, the children will learn how the Roman Empire became so powerful and how the Romans conquered and changed Britain. They will also find out what they believed in and why they left alongside discovering the difference between Roman and Celtic armies and why Boudicca led a revolt against them.

Geography will be taught again in the Spring term.

