

Whitstable Junior School



Term 1 Curriculum Information 2019 For parents in Year 4



Mrs Wiltshire, Miss Oliver, Miss Leaver,
Mrs Browning, Ms Sydenham, Mrs Fry, Mrs Martin and Miss Crawford
join in welcoming you and your children to Year 4.

We are all looking forward to the year ahead which is jam-packed with exciting learning opportunities and creative experiences to lend depth and relevance to the curriculum.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to ask us or any member of staff on the gate in the morning.

What are we learning about this term?

Key Areas covered this term in Maths



The greater part of the term will involve work on the **four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)**.

We will be using the column method to calculate addition and subtraction and will spend time ensuring the children understand how to carry and exchange. For multiplication and division, we focus on 3 digit by 1 digit numbers using column and bus stop methods.

The week's work will culminate in problem solving activities. In the final week we take a look at **perimeter, investigating measures and learning key vocabulary**.

Times tables

We are continuing to secure knowledge of **times tables and inverse division facts**. We will be checking these every Tuesday and would greatly appreciate your help in practicing them with your child. They will be aware of the x-table they are working on and can use our online game, TT Rockstars, to help make learning them even more fun.

Key Areas covered this term in English



Throughout the year, we link our Topic theme with English and this term takes us on a journey along 'Rivers'. First, we take an in-depth look at the journey of a river using **Meredith Cooper's beautiful River Story as inspiration for writing to entertain**. We then 'evaporate' into the clouds with the **Pixar film Partly Cloudy** which provides a focal point for writing dialogue.

Reading at home

We love reading in Year 4 and have regular story times and shared reading. We aim to instil children with a lifetime love of reading both actively and passively. We therefore recommend that you **share a book with your child on a daily basis** and remember to sign their bookmark as they are hugely proud when able to share their reading achievements.

Spellings

Children will continue to learn their weekly **spellings with the help of Spelling Shed and Syd the Super Spelling Snake**. Spellings will go home on a Monday and tested on a Friday.





Rivers, Changing States, Art, Music and much more...

During Term 1, the children will **be learning all about rivers**; where the water comes from to create them, their features, how they form an integral part of our everyday lives and precautions taken to prevent flooding. Weather permitting; we will weave in many memorable and exciting opportunities for outdoor learning in the local environment.

In their Science lessons children will be looking **at materials and their states**, investigating how these states might be changed through heat or cold. We will make water cycles in a bag, freeze poor little Lego men and even run races with salad cream and honey! Never a dull moment in Year 4! In addition to this, the children will be developing their co-ordination and fitness through dance, gym and team games in their PE lessons and have fun with **photography in art**, focusing on portraits as well as developing their understanding of the **Hindu culture** and learning how to play the **Ukulele**. Furthermore they will be learning **French language** through games, quizzes, role play and short animations – **covering animals, birthdays and discussing the weather and where we live**.



PHSE:

At WJS, we have 6 main values: Respect, Fairness, Trust, Responsibility, Determination and Caring. Our PHSE focus for the first term will be respect. They will learn through circle time, stories, direct teaching and peer work the importance of diversity, being a good friend, how we grow and change and how we can keep safe in our local area. There is also an exciting opportunity for each child to take part in our **Royal Native Citizenship Award**. This award enables children to collect evidence of when they have shown **Respect and Fairness for their Community** and those in it. Mrs Migden will be coming into classes next week to explain more about this exciting award that reflects our Curriculum Drivers and Our Values.

Here are a few extra pieces of useful information that we would like to share with you:

- Children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack for break time, this can be a piece of fruit or a cereal bar. If you prefer, the children can purchase a fruit token from their teacher in the morning for 40p and spend it at the fruit café at break.
- PE kits should be in school every day due to weather constraints and occasional changes in timetable.
- **Weekly Homework:** Children will be set Spellings, Reading and Times Tables to practice each week. This should be recorded in their Contact Books. Access to our online platforms: SpellingShed and TTRockstars will be given out today.
- **Optional Topic homework:** Children will be given a Homework Grid which contains a variety of different activities that *can* be completed should you as a family enjoy completing additional activities together. Up to 2 activities a week can be completed and handed to the class Teacher, recorded in their Homework books, on a weekly basis. If there are any difficulties with homework or children are struggling, Mrs Harris runs a homework club during Lunchtime on a Thursday. Everyone is welcome and she will be there to support if needed.

Dates for the diary:

- Friday 13th September – Roald Dahl Day
- Monday 16th September – Open Classroom 3:15-4:00pm
- Tuesday 17th September – Jeans for Genes Day
- Friday 20th September – Individual Photos
- Tuesday 24th September – Taster Maths Parents Meeting in the studio 1pm – 2:30pm
- Friday 27th September – McMillan Coffee morning
- Thursday 10th September – Hello Yellow Day – wear something Yellow
- Monday 14th – Friday 18th October – Black History Week
- Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th October – Parents Evening
- Friday 18th October – End of Term 1

