



# YEAR 4

## Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! The Y4 team would like to congratulate all of the children for their hard work and achievements last term.

Please remember, if you have any queries or concerns you can contact the Y4 team directly on the following email address: [y4@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:y4@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk)

We are looking forward to another wonderful term!  
From the Y4 team.



### Traders and Raiders

Big and strong, powerful and brave, the Saxons wave their battle-axes and brandish their swords as they begin to invade Britain's shores. Sail back to the Dark Ages, where battles were rife and fear reigned. Find out about the lives of the Saxons, including how they lived and where they came from. Meet the Vikings from Scandinavia – never before had such terror swept the land. Make a Saxon sword or a Viking brooch and decorate it with intricate patterns. Choose to be a Saxon or Viking and trade your crafty goods, but let us keep it cool. We don't want a fight breaking out. Are you ready to shine a light on the dangerous and deadly Dark Ages?



### Maths

The children will start the term by continuing our multiplication and division unit. This time we will be building our skills and answering questions involving 2-digit and 3-digit numbers such as  $23 \times 3$  or  $162 \div 4$ . We will then move on to a new unit – Perimeter. Within this topic we will also recap on 2D shapes and measuring in mm, cm, m and km. After half term, we will move on to Fractions. We will start by recapping the previous learning taught in Y3 such as key words (denominator and numerator), understanding 1 whole and ordering fractions. We will then learn about improper fractions, equivalent fractions and adding/subtracting fractions.

As always, we encourage all Y4 children to be practising their timetables regularly to prepare for the Multiplication Times Tables Check in June.



### English

This term we will start the term studying character descriptions for a mythical creature. We will then have a go at writing our own character descriptions within a story opening. Focusing on using adjectives, similes and interesting sentence starters. After this topic, we then will move onto writing newspapers. We will internalise an article all about a Viking invasion using facts that we have learned in our topic lessons. The children will use the key features of a newspaper to report on key events happening around the school. After half term, the children will have a chance to write their own Viking saga. They will use their knowledge from our Topic lessons to include Viking life, superstitions and gods into their creative writing.

### Routines and Reminders

**PE days** – Every Tuesday and Thursday. Children should come to school in the correct PE school uniform (a white t-shirt, navy blue/black shorts or trousers and black trainers).

**Art and Music** – Will be taught every Wednesday morning by our specialist teachers.

**Library** – Y4 will be visiting the school library every Tuesday with their class. Please remember to bring in your library book on this day if you wish to return it for a new one. They also have the opportunity to visit the library during lunchtimes.

**Reminders** – Children should be coming into school with their water bottle and their current reading book. These can be books from home or borrowed from the school library.

### **Homework**

**Weekly spellings** – These can be found on the school website (under the main heading Curriculum and Assessment and drop down to English) and the children will be tested every Friday.

**Daily reading** – Children should spend 10+ minutes of reading a day. There are a range of books within the classrooms and opportunities to visit the school library. Please listen to your child read and when possible, ask comprehension questions to extend their understanding.

**Times Table Rock Stars** – All children have an account to practise their times tables. In Y4, the children will be completing the Multiplication Timetables Check (MTC) next term. They will need to be able to answer any times tables question in 6 seconds. It would be helpful if all Y4 children are practising all the times tables up to X12 in preparation for this check.

**Topic** – This term, the project is based on 'Traders and Raiders'. We would like the children to research anything that interests them about the Anglo-Saxons or Vikings. Children can choose how they would like to present their research to the class and can be as creative as they choose – posters, PowerPoints, stories, comics, videos etc. From 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March children will be invited to present their finished projects to their class if they wish to.

### **What else will be happening in the Curriculum?**

#### **RE**

During our RE lessons this term, we will be starting a new unit about Christianity. In this unit, we will be looking at the places of worship used by Christians and the significant features/symbols found inside them. After half term, we will look at Christian celebrations with a focus on the Easter story.

#### **PSHE**

As part of our PSHE topic, we will be looking at the unit '*Dreams and Goals*' which consists of the children understanding how to set achievable goals, resilience and overcoming disappointment.

#### **Art/DT**

The children will be studying the artwork 'Valentine's hearts' by Jim Dine. The children will draw outlines using charcoal and then fill the centre with painted hearts, dots and lines. After half term, the children will move onto learning all about Viking art by drawing knots and completing a runestone in clay.

#### **Music**

In music the children will be learning about the different instruments from the continent of Africa. Djembe drumming. Notating using grid notation. Call & response. Group compositions using ostinato and call & response. After half term, they will start learning about the Bachianas Brasileiras Folk music of Brazil mixed with western classical music.

#### **Spanish**

We will start the term with a unit called - *Shopping*. The children will learn specific vocabulary of fruit, vegetables and clothes. They will also learn key phrases for asking the questions needed when going shopping. After half term, we will start a new unit called - *The Wider World*. This unit will teach the children key vocabulary related to countries, continents and animals. They will learn specific vocabulary of countries of the United Kingdom, Spanish-speaking countries, continents and animals associated with them and a country's position related to the equator.

#### **Science**

We will start the new term with our topic - *Sound*. This unit will answer the question – *How do we hear sound?* Our second Science topic is *Electricity* and we will be learning about where electricity comes from, how we use electricity in our everyday life, building circuits and conductors/insulators.

### **Computing**

We will start the term by learning about programming. In this unit they will create programs by planning, modifying, and testing commands to create shapes and patterns. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language. This unit is the first of the two programming units in Year 4, and looks at repetition and loops within programming. After half term, the children will begin a new unit learning about data logging. In this unit, children will consider how and why data is collected over time. They will collect data as well as access data captured over long periods of time. They will look at data points, data sets, and logging intervals. Finally, the children will spend time using a computer to review and analyse data.

### **Guided Reading**

Our class Guided Reading books this term are:

Parbury – The firework Makers Daughter by Philip Pullman

Sevenoaks - Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Ivy – Varjak Paw by S.F Said

### **How to help your child!**

- Every week your child will be sent home spellings. It is important that you learn these with your child as they will have a spelling test every Friday.
- Reading with your child daily is a great way for them to answer questions and share what they are enjoying about their current reading book.
- Please practise times tables with your child using videos, quizzing, songs, Times Table Rockstars etc. This will help them to feel prepared for their times table test towards the end of Y4

### **Educational Visits in Y4 this term:**

Please refer to our Programme of Events for all the exciting trips and workshops.

### **Spring Term's Curriculum Week**

**Date: March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Dress Up Day: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**

If you would like to donate your outfit after the event, please feel free to give it to your class teacher. It will be recycled for next year to reduce landfill and support our Eco-Warriors on their drive for a **greener school**.

### **Costume ideas**

