



YEAR 4

Autumn Term Newsletter 2026

Welcome to Y4!

We hope the Y4 children and parents/carers have enjoyed their summer holiday. We are so pleased to see how well the children have settled into their new classes and we are ready for an exciting year of learning and discovery ahead.

Throughout the year, we kindly ask for your continued support, to ensure that the children are organised for their learning by being on time for school and wearing the appropriate uniform. If you have any queries, you can contact the Y4 team directly on the following email address: y4@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk

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



Miss Rooney
(Parbury Class teacher)



Ms Zelve
(Sevenoaks Class teacher)



Mr Baxter
(Ivy Class teacher)

Uniform

Our school uniform consists of:

- grey skirts, culottes, trousers or shorts (no leggings or cycling shorts).
- royal blue or yellow polo shirt, sweatshirt or fleece with or without the school logo.
- children may wear blue or yellow check summer dresses.
- all pupils must wear black shoes or all black trainers.

Our PE uniform consists of:

Navy blue or black shorts (no cycling shorts), white T-shirt, trainers or plimsolls and a plain navy blue/black tracksuit for outdoors PE (not a fashion tracksuit).

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 Monday with their class. Please remember to bring in your library book on this day if you wish to return it for a new one.

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.



Topic

Welcome to the planet's coldest lands. Vast wilds and hostile territories; incredibly beautiful, yet often deadly. Take shelter from the elements or fall prey to icy winds and the deepest chill. Trek bravely and valiantly across treacherous terrain to the ends of the Earth, treading deep in snow or being pulled by a team of mighty sled dogs. Be alert, for magnificent mammals roam these lands, sometimes hungry or fresh for a fight. Perhaps a hungry polar bear or an Arctic fox is hunting rodents, as swift as the wind. Research facts and figures of climate, temperature, habitats and ecosystems, and compose evocative poems about the Northern Lights. Become part of an Antarctic rescue team, braving the elements to rescue terrified passengers from a ship struck by a deadly iceberg that hides deep beneath the Southern Ocean. Wrap up well and settle by the fire. I'm just going outside and may be some time.



Maths

We will start the year by practising our place value skills. First, we will recap previously taught learning by partitioning numbers up to 1000. Once secure, we will begin to count forwards and backwards to 10,000. Throughout the term we will be using counters, place value charts and dienes to partition 4-digit numbers. We will end the unit practising rounding to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. We will then be moving on to a unit all about addition and subtraction. The children will be given the opportunity to build their confidence using the column method which was taught in Y3. This time we will be adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers. After half term, we will complete a short unit looking at finding the area of a shape. We will end the Autumn term working on our multiplication skills. Our focus will be the x6, x7, x9 and x12 tables but we will also revisit the one taught in previous years.



English

This term we will start by looking at a non-fiction text linked to leaflets. We will be linking this unit with our current topic 'Frozen Kingdoms' to produce a leaflet all about the Polar regions. We will then move on to a fictional story based on the film 'Toy Story'. The children will be given the chance to write about everyday objects coming to life and the adventures these objects get up to when no one is looking. After half term we will then complete a non-fiction unit again linking to our 'Frozen Kingdom' topic. The children will use the chrome books to research a person who has explored the Polar regions and use this information to write a biography. Throughout the term, we will continue to recap key writing skills such as using capital letters, full stops and paragraphs in our writing. Our main focus this term will be using descriptive language, selecting interesting vocabulary for our reader, using research and facts to inform our writing and using subheadings to organise our ideas.

What else will be happening in the Curriculum?

RE

During our RE lessons this term, we will be focussing on Judaism. We will be learning about what these religions believe, any special places and any special symbols. We will also be looking at different stories from this religion. In November, we will visit a local Synagogue to find out more about this place of worship.

PSHE

As part of our PSHE topic, we will be looking at the unit '*Being me in my world*' which consists of the children understanding their place in the class, school and global community. After half term we will start our new topic 'Celebrating Difference'.

Art/DT

The children will be taking part in a D&T project linking to their 'Frozen Kingdom' topic. We will be investigating different types of structures used in the polar region, what measures are put in place for humans to survive the extreme elements. We will use our findings to plan, build and evaluate our own shelters for a polar region.

Music

We are thrilled to partner with Junior Jam to bring high-quality, energetic music sessions to our Key Stage 2 students! Our curriculum is designed to build confidence, teamwork, and a lifelong love for music.

Spanish

We will start the year by recapping the Y3 topics we learnt last year. We will then move on to a unit called "My Town". In this unit the children will learn to develop their intercultural understanding by being introduced to the sights of some typical Spanish-speaking cities. They will also learn to describe places in a town, count to 100 and give their address in Spanish. After half term, the children will move on to a unit called "Let's go!" In this unit the children will develop their conversational skills via some new topics; transport, direction and movement. They will learn to conjugate the high-frequency verb 'to go' and use it in context.

Science

Our Science topic is 'Group and Classify living things' and we will be learning about how to use classification keys to groups animals and plants. After half term our topic is 'States of matter' and we will be learning about solid, liquids and gases. We will learn and conduct experiments linking to our key vocabulary (melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation and the water cycle).

Computing

We will start the year by learning about staying safe online by answering questions such as "What is the internet?" and "Can I believe what I read?" After half term, we will learn about how to plan, record and edit a podcast.

Guided Reading

Our class Guided Reading books this term are:

Ivy Class – Varjak Paw by S.F Said

Parbury Class – The Firework Makers Daughter by Philip Pullman

Sevenoaks Class - Rumaysa by Radiya Hafiza

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) towards the end of Y4. They will need to be able to answer any timetables 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 test.



Topic Project Homework –

This term, the project is based on 'The Frozen Kingdoms'. We would like the children to pick an animal that lives in a polar region and research how it is able to survive in the extreme conditions. Children can choose how they would like to present their research to the class and can be as creative as they like – posters, PowerPoints, stories, comics, videos, stop motion animation, news reports etc. From 8th to 19th December children will be invited to present their finished projects to their class if they wish to.

How to help your child!

- Every week your child will have weekly 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 the Multiplication Timetables check (MTC) towards the end of Y4.

Educational Enrichment in Y4 this term:

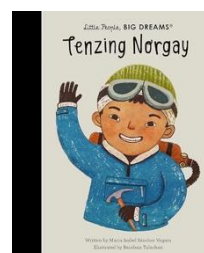
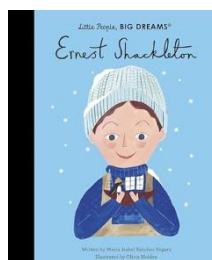
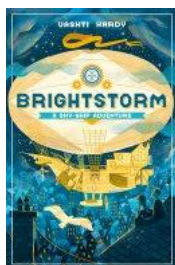
This term, we have three trips booked. In November, the children will be visiting:

We will be visiting a local Synagogue in Catford to support our RE learning this term. The children will take a tour of the Synagogue, hear about the various religious items within the building and finally have the opportunity to see a real handwritten Torah scroll up close.

We will also be visiting the Horniman museum to take part in an Arctic Life workshop. The children will explore modern Arctic life before travelling back in time to discover traditional Inuit life and survival skills.

Finally, the children will visit the Science Museum to take part in a Wonder Lab experience and watch a Wonder Show. These activities will allow the children to see a wide range of Science experiments.

Love reading, we recommend these reads that compliment our Autumn curriculum!



Read Matthew Henson's bio too!

Autumn Term's Curriculum Week

Date: Week beginning November 16th

Dress Up Day: 17th November

Note – Topic Project due. See above for information!

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**.

Calling All Explorers! Our Frozen Kingdom Day is Coming... ❄️

Pack your thermal gear and prepare to set sail! We are journeying to the ends of the Earth to explore the breathtaking, icy landscapes of the polar regions.

To help create an immersive experience, we are asking children to arrive at school dressed as **polar explorers, indigenous Arctic peoples, researchers, or even incredible Arctic wildlife like penguins, polar bears, or snowy owls**.

There is no need to hunt down store-bought costumes! An oversized winter coat, a fluffy scarf, and a woolly beanie hat can instantly transform your child into a brave Arctic explorer. Alternatively, a plain white or grey t-shirt can be easily decorated to look like animal fur or feathers or layered with a homemade cardboard compass or binoculars.

We cannot wait to see their creative frost-bitten styles! Please ensure **no real or hard toy tools** (like ice axes or climbing gear) are brought into school. Thank you for your support in making the frozen wild come alive!

