

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Year 4 Parents/Carers

### **Year 4 Curriculum Letter - Spring (2<sup>nd</sup> half)**

#### **Message from the teachers**

Well done for a great start to 2025! The second half of spring term is full of exciting extra-curricular activities such as World Book Day, Science Week and the Year 4 educational trip to the Verulamium Museum.

This letter will tell you about the subjects Year 4 will be learning about in class this half term.

#### **Our Core Values**

Happiness: we spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: we care and are kind to all.

Respect: we treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: we work well with everyone.

#### **Year 4 Staffing**

Juniper class teacher: Miss Rowe

Spruce class teacher: Miss Heraty

Year 4 learning support assistants: Mrs Eyre and Miss Heffernan

#### **Communication**

Please feel free to arrange a meeting should you wish to speak to one of the teachers in person. Alternatively, you can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

[Juniperclass@harefieldjunior.com](mailto:Juniperclass@harefieldjunior.com)

[Spruceclass@harefieldjunior.com](mailto:Spruceclass@harefieldjunior.com)

#### **Homework**

Homework will be sent out each Friday to be returned the following Friday. Children should also be practicing their times tables each week, using the following website:

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

#### **Reading at home**

It is vitally important that children read regularly at home, even if it's for just 20 minutes a day.

A new home reading book, at your child's reading age level, will be sent home every Monday.

Please remember to send these books back in to school each Monday. A new book will not be issued until the previous one has been returned.

As well as home reading books, children visit the school library each Tuesday on a fortnightly basis and can borrow books to read at home.

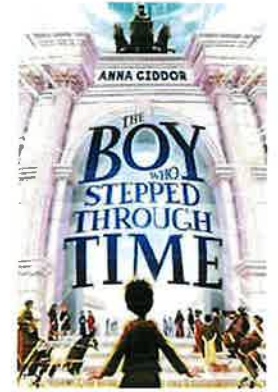
New home reading books and library books will not be issued until the previous ones have been returned.

## Spring Term Learning

This half term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

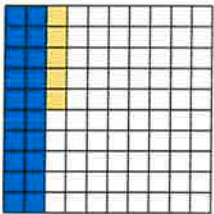
### English

This half term, we will be reading 'The Boy Who Stepped through Time' by Anna Ciddor and using this to help us write a wishing tale, describing a character who makes a wish for change and how this might happen. We will continue with a non-narrative discussion piece of writing, basing arguments on themes from the story.



### Mathematics

Eva and Jack are partitioning 25 hundredths.



Eva

$$\frac{25}{100} = \frac{20}{100} + \frac{5}{100}$$

Jack

$$\frac{25}{100} = \frac{2}{10} + \frac{5}{100}$$

In mathematics this term, year 4 will be introduced to working with fractions and decimal numbers. The children will learn how to convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions, add and subtract fractions, divide numbers by 10 into the tenths and hundredth columns, and convert hundredths between fractions and decimal numbers.

Who do you agree with?

There's more detail about what we will be learning on the White Rose website:

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/resources?year=year-4-new&subject=maths>

### Physical Education

The outdoor P.E. unit for year 4 this spring term is 'Invasion Games'. Children will practice the essential and universal skills needed to play a range of games, such as dodging, dribbling, passing and marking an opponent. They will focus specifically on attacking and defending skills, such as fake dodging, interception and goalkeeping and the children will develop their understanding of both attacking and defending strategies of invasion games and working as a team

Additionally, Year 4 classes will be learning how to play Boccia, which is a fun and inclusive precision ball sport, similar to curling and bowls. The aim of Boccia is for players to each try to get their ball closest to the jack (target ball). Athletics lessons will also be taking place this half term in preparation for the summer competitions and sports day.

Our PE days are:

Outdoor PE: **Wednesday**– Juniper class

Indoor PE: **Friday** – Spruce & Juniper classes.

### Forest School:

Forest School will be taking place each **Wednesday** afternoon for **Spruce Class** this half term. The children will be given opportunities to learn in nature, building a range of skills and making observations of the changing seasons. Please ensure your child brings their Forest School clothing in to school in a bag on Tuesdays.



**Address:** Park Lane, Harefield, Middlesex, UB9 6BJ

**Tel:** 01895 824447

**Email:** office@harefieldjunior.com

**Web:** www.harefieldjunior.com

**Executive Head Teacher:** Mr A.Sunner

**Head of School:** Mr J.Downs

### **Music**

We are very fortunate to have a specialist music teacher in school every Wednesday to teach Year 4 music lessons, focusing on playing the glockenspiel.

In **Art** year 4 will be exploring the topic of European Art. The children will use variety of resources to sketch, paint and create their own masterpieces linked to landscape and portrait art in the style of many artists such as Anselm Kiefer, Michelangelo, Salvador Dali and Rembrandt. This unit encourages children to get creative with colour and textures both individually and collectively.

### **Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education**

The PSHE topic for this half term is called "Healthy Me", and will encourage the children to discuss ways of making healthy choices through having healthy relationships with friends and keeping themselves safe from harmful substances such as nicotine and alcohol.

In **Science** year 4 will be learning about Electricity, including building basic circuits and understanding conductors and insulators – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

In **History** year 4 will be learning about the Romans, the spread of the Roman Empire from Italy and how Britain changed following conquest – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

In **Religious Education** year 4 will be learning the topic "Christianity" where the children will find out where Christianity originated, about special places linked to Christianity and about key festivals in Christian life. The children will also learn about symbols in Christianity, the Christian holy book and the main beliefs held by Christians. – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

In **French** year 4 will be learning the topic "Where in the World", learning vocabulary linked to countries, continents and their positions in relation to each other – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Please feel free to contact us via the class email accounts should you have any questions over the term ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Rowe & Miss Heraty  
Year 4 Teachers

**Key Vocabulary**

**appliances** - electrical devices used for a particular purpose, e.g. fridge, oven



**plug** - a device put into a socket to connect to an electrical circuit



**socket** - the part of the electrical circuit where the plug fits to make a connection



**cell** - a portable store of energy



**electrocuted** - to be injured or killed by electricity

**circuit** - a closed path that energy can flow through



**switch** - a device that opens and closes an electrical circuit



**conductor** - a material that allows energy to flow through it



**battery** - two or more cells joined together to store more energy



**buzzer** - a device that makes a sound



**material** - what an object is made from



**insulator** - a material that does not allow energy to flow through it



**metal** - a material which can be hard, shiny and a conductor of electricity



**Knowledge**

- Many appliances use electricity and must be plugged into a socket for the electricity to pass through the circuit. Other appliances may need batteries to power the energy around a circuit.
- Some appliances use electricity to heat things up (cooker hobs) and cool things down (fridges and freezers).
- Electricity can be extremely harmful.
- Liquids and wet hands should be kept away from electrical appliances and circuits.
- A circuit must have a closed path so that electrical energy can pass through.
- Circuits can include bulbs, wires, switches, buzzers and cells connected in one loop.
- If a circuit does not have a source of energy, such as a cell or battery, then electricity cannot flow around it.
- A bulb will not light in a circuit if it is not in a complete loop with the cell.
- A bulb will not light in a circuit if a switch is open.
- A conductor is a material which allows energy to flow through it.
- Metals are good conductors.
- An insulator does not allow energy to flow through it.
- Materials which are insulators are rubber, plastic and wood.
- A conductor is a material which allows energy to pass through it.
- An insulator does not allow energy to pass through it.
- Some materials can be used to connect a gap in a circuit, others cannot.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Celts</b>	People living in Britain in <b>tribes</b> , including the Iceni, Brigantes and Catuvellauni.
<b>citizen</b>	A person with all the rights and protections of a nation or land. In the <b>Roman Empire</b> , only <b>citizens</b> were able to vote.
<b>conquest</b>	Taking control of a place by force, often with an army.
<b>emperor</b>	The ruler of an <b>empire</b> .
<b>empire</b>	A group of countries controlled by one ruler ( <b>emperor</b> or <b>empress</b> ) or government.
<b>legion</b>	A large section of the Roman army, made up of around 5000 soldiers.
<b>rebellion</b>	An uprising or revolt by people who want to challenge what they believe is unfair treatment by rulers.
<b>Roman Empire</b>	The name used for the land that was controlled by the Romans, including large parts of Europe plus parts of North Africa and West Asia.
<b>tribe</b>	A group of people who share the same culture and values.

## Timeline

3500 BC

Ancient Egypt

Ancient Rome

Maya Civilisation

Ancient Greece

AD 1

Iron Age

Roman Britain

Anglo-Saxon Britain

AD 1500

The first Romans lived in Italy nearly 3000 years ago. They founded the city of Rome in 753 BC and, over the centuries, **conquered** many lands to create a huge **empire**.



## Julius Caesar Invades in 55 BC and 54 BC

The Roman General Julius Caesar made two attempts to **conquer** Britain. He wanted to add the rich land to the **Roman Empire** and punish the **Celts** for helping his enemies. His **legions** weren't able to overcome the **Celts** in 55 BC or 54 BC, but some leaders did pay tributes (a tax) so the Romans would leave. This meant the **Celts** could continue to live as they were.



## Emperor Claudius Conquers Britain in AD 43

In AD 43, **Emperor Claudius** launched a third attack on Britain. He sent a powerful and well-organised army of around 40,000 men (that landed in southern England) to **conquer** the **Celtic tribes**. This time, much of Britain (or Britannia as the Romans called it) did become another province of Rome.

### Boudicca Rebels in AD 60/61

The Romans seized the land and wealth of the Iceni **tribe** after King Prasutagus died. Queen Boudicca objected and she led a **rebellion** against the Romans. At first, her army was very successful but in the Battle of Watling Street, the Roman army finally defeated Boudicca and the **Celts**. Many people were killed in the **rebellion**.



### Hadrian's Wall in AD 122

In AD 122, **Emperor** Hadrian gave an order to build a wall in the north of the country. Roman **legions** had tried to **conquer** Caledonia (Scotland), but the Picts would not give up their lands and they also raided land that the Romans controlled. Hadrian's Wall took around six years to build and it was 73 miles long. Around 15,000 troops lived at Hadrian's



Wall so they could defend this northern border of the **Roman Empire**.

### Roman Roads and Towns

The Roman army are famous for building long, straight roads. Special engineers planned these roads and they criss-crossed the whole **Roman Empire**. They boosted trade, communication with the **Emperor** and helped the **legions** to keep control of all the different provinces.

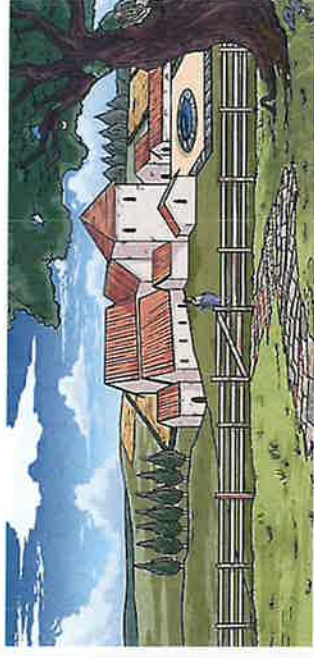


The Romans built new towns all over Britain. Each one had a marketplace, town hall, shops, temples and homes; larger towns had an amphitheatre. Bath houses were elaborately designed and were popular places to relax and meet friends.



### Roman Villas

Wealthy Romans and some **Celts** built large homes in the countryside called villas. The land attached to these homes was used for farming as agriculture was an important business for the Romans. Countryside villa complexes included a main house, bath house, workshops and gardens.

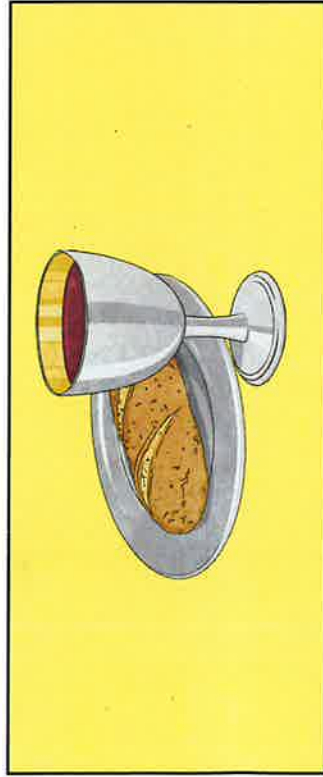


### Did you know...?

Romans worshipped their own gods when they came to Britain and later introduced Christianity.



Key Vocabulary	
<b>Christianity</b>	The religion followed by Christians.
<b>Judaism</b>	The religion followed by Jews.
<b>Jesus</b>	The founder of <b>Christianity</b> .
<b>Ten Commandments</b>	Ten rules given by God for people to live by.
<b>The Trinity</b>	The three separate forms that God is known by.
<b>Old Testament</b>	The first (and biggest) part of the Bible, written before <b>Jesus</b> was born.



### Christianity

**Christianity** is one of the five main world religions. It began after the death of **Jesus**.

**Jesus** was born a Jew and **Christianity** originally developed as part of **Judaism**.

There are a number of symbols associated with **Christianity**:

The words 'Christian' and '**Christianity**' come from the name, '**Jesus** Christ.'

### The Son of God

Christians believe that **Jesus** was the son of God and that he came to Earth to teach people about God's message. **Jesus** is also known as **Jesus** Christ, **Jesus** of Nazareth, The Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, Light of the World, and Bread of Life.

### The Trinity

Christians believe in **the Trinity**. There is one God, but He is three separate people: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is sometimes known as the Holy Ghost.

### The Ten Commandments

These ten rules were given by God. They can be found in the **Old Testament**. Christians try to live their lives by following the **Ten Commandments**.

Key Vocabulary	
<b>pilgrimage</b>	A journey to visit a religious site.
<b>Catholic</b>	A member of the Roman Catholic church – a denomination (group) of <b>Christianity</b> .
<b>miracles</b>	Amazing events that occur, but cannot be explained.
<b>resurrection</b>	When <b>Jesus</b> rose from the dead.
<b>Lent</b>	The 40 days leading up to Easter. Christians often give something up for <b>Lent</b> .
<b>fasting</b>	To <b>fast</b> is to not eat or drink for a particular length of time.
<b>New Testament</b>	The second part of the Bible, which was written after <b>Jesus</b> was born.

**Special Places**

Some Christians **pilgrimage** to holy places, such as Jerusalem (where **Jesus** died), Bethlehem (where **Jesus** was born) and Nazareth (where **Jesus** grew up).



**Catholics** may **pilgrimage** to Lourdes, in France, where **miracles** were said to have occurred, or Rome, in Italy, where the Pope (**Catholic** church) lives.

**The Anglican Church**

Another denomination of **Christianity** is the Anglican church. This group also includes the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior bishop of the Church of England. Canterbury is where the first church was built in England.



Easter and Christmas are important Christian festivals. Christmas celebrates **Jesus'** birth and Easter celebrates **Jesus'** death and resurrection. Christians believe that **Jesus** died for their sins and that one day he will come again. During **Lent**, Christians remember **Jesus'** time **fasting** and praying in the desert.

**Festivals**

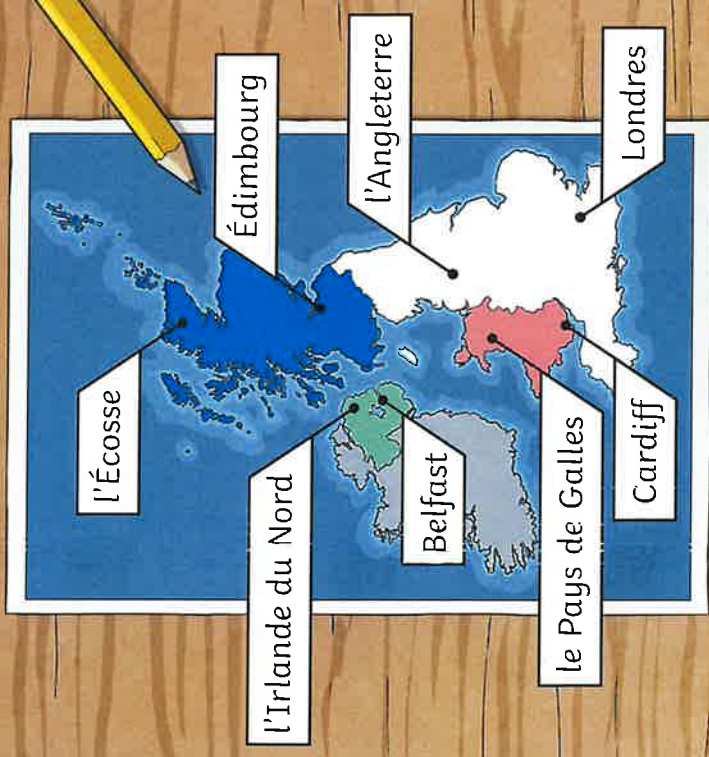
**The Bible**

The Christian holy book is the Bible. It has two parts: the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**. There are over 66 books within the Bible, which include letters, laws, poems and stories.





Le Royaume-Uni [United Kingdom]










J'habite en Écosse.  
I live in Scotland.

Où habites-tu ?  
Where do you live?

J'habite au  
Pays de Galles.  
I live in Wales.

Countries that Speak French

There are over 29 countries where French is an official language. Here are some of them...

-  Canada
-  Suisse
-  Belgique
-  Côte d'Ivoire
-  France
-  Tunisie
-  Mali
-  Haïti\*

Compass Points



Quelle est la capitale de l'Angleterre ?

What's the capital of England?

Londres est la capitale de l'Angleterre.  
London is the capital of England.

On parle français en Belgique.  
They speak French in Belgium.

On parle français à Haïti.  
They speak French in Haïti.

Note that **en** is used to say **in** before a feminine country but **au** is used to say **in** when the country is masculine.











\*If the country is an island like Haïti we say **à**.

# Where in the World?

Key Language in Context		
L'Australie est au sud de l'Équateur. Australia is south of the Equator.	La Colombie est sur l'Équateur. Colombia is on the Equator.	L'Angleterre est au nord de l'Équateur. England is north of the Equator.
All continents in French are feminine so <b>en</b> is used to say <b>in</b> :		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La France est en Europe. France is in Europe.</li> <li>• Les États-Unis sont en Amérique du Nord. The United States are in North America.</li> </ul>		
De quel continent vient-il/elle ?	Il/elle vient de...	
Which continent does he/she/it come from?	He/she/it comes from...	

The word **allé** is called a past participle and it has to agree with the subject. So a boy will write **Je suis allé** whereas a girl will write **Je suis allée**.

## Key Vocabulary - Animals

f = feminine	m = masculine
	
une baleine (f)	un bison (m)
	
un zèbre (m)	un lion (m)
	
un ours brun (m)	un panda (m)
	
un ours polaire (m)	un renne (m)
	
	un kangourou (m)
	un cobra (m)

## Key Vocabulary - Continents

l'Amérique du Nord (f) [North America], l'Amérique du Sud (f) [South America], l'Afrique (f) [Africa], l'Europe (f) [Europe], l'Asie (f) [Asia], l'Antarctique (f) [Antarctica], l'Océanie (f) [Oceania].