



Autumn Term 2026 Curriculum Newsletter

Miss Collinson, Mrs Hopkinson and Mr Moran

Classes Ash, Maple & Sycamore

This is set to be an exciting Autumn term in Year 4. In this letter, we hope to give you some information about the curriculum for this term and how you can help at home. Our teachers in Y4 are Ash— Mr Moran (Mrs Wyatt will teach on a Wednesday afternoon), Maple— Mrs Hopkinson (Mrs Wyatt will teach on a Friday) and Sycamore—Miss Collinson (Mrs Wyatt will teach on a Thursday afternoon). Mrs Daubney is our Teaching Assistant in Y4.



We love
reading in Year
4!

As the children are now stronger and more confident readers, the focus at home should move from, not just hearing your child read, but to discussing what they have read. Ask questions that will really make them think, such as: 'What would you have done in that situation?' or 'Why did that character behave in that way?'. It is vital to do this at least 3 times a week. Remember to sign your child's diary each time.

Trips!

Each class will be visiting Sherwood Forest and will spend one evening staying at the centre there. The following day we get to have a whole day of fun with 'Robin Hood' or 'Maid Marian'. We will be sending more information over the next few weeks.

Ash Class 19th-20th October
Sycamore Class 20th-21st October
Maple 21st - 22nd October

Later on this term (9/11/26), we will be visiting the National Civil War Centre, where we will be completing exciting activities.



Curriculum

Science & Topic - Our topic for the first half term this term is 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We will look at classifying animals, how they are adapted to their habitats and food chains. Some of this will tie in to our Sherwood Forest residential, which will be a fantastic and fun-filled conclusion to the half-term.

After half term we will be finding out about Local History. This will focus on Newark's history during the Civil War. We will learn about the Siege of Newark and compete other Civil War activities. We will learn about the significance of Newark as 'The Last Town Standing' during this time and we will work closely with the National Civil War Centre to do a range of interactive activities.

Geography— We will be using maps to explore how Newark has changed over time.

Art/DT - In Art, we will be producing self-portraits and portraits of figures involved in the Civil War. Towards Christmas, we will be baking and decorating cakes in DT.

RE - We will be comparing Christian and Hindu beliefs and ways of life, following on from work in year 3. Specifically, we will learn about Christian families and their faiths as well as their places of worship, comparing these to Hindu families. Later in the term we will look at our journey through life to death and different views of this from world religions.

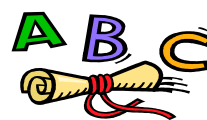
Music - We will have regular weekly singing sessions with Mr Higgins and will continue to learn to play the recorder.

PHSE - We utilise the brilliant PSHE JIGSAW scheme. This term we will be learning about the themes, 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'.

Computing - The children will be learning about online safety, effective searching and developing their 'control' technology skills through the 'Logo' software. They will have regular sessions using 'Times Table Rock Stars' in maths and they will also continue to do cross-curricular based work, improving their basic computing skills.

What will we be doing in English?

Fiction	Starting with Roald Dahl's last book, 'The Minpins', we study stories with dilemmas, narrative poetry and story structure.
Non-Fiction	Recounts, newspapers and magazines and information texts.
Poetry	We will study examples of a range of poetry and have a go at writing our own, and recite some of our favourites.
Reading Fluency	We will have weekly reading sessions, focussed on developing reading fluency and vocabulary.



Spelling and handwriting

The children are expected to learn spellings each week, ready for their weekly test. We will do regular activities in class to build children's familiarity with spelling rules and patterns. Handwriting is expected to be joined, consistent and legible in year 4. Children work towards writing in pen.

What will we be doing in Maths?

Maths is divided into blocks focusing on different key mathematical skills such as number, shape, fractions, measurement, position and direction and data handling. Children will be developing their ability to record their ideas in clear steps as they solve a range of problems. Understanding the relationship between mathematical functions will be a key area. These are things you can do at home:

- **ESSENTIAL: Help children to learn all times tables up to 12 x 12. The children will be subject to National Testing of Times Tables in June 2027.**
- Help your child to tell the time on an analogue and digital clock; lots of practice please.
- Look at the capacity of different containers and read other measuring scales accurately to measure liquids and solids.



Please bring a clearly identifiable drink bottle so that your child can have water to drink throughout the day. Please try to avoid single-use plastic bottles; we will learn about their damaging effect on the environment later in Year 4.



PE this term will be Swimming and outdoor games.

All children will go swimming on Friday mornings.

Outdoor PE will take place on - Monday (Ash class and Sycamore class) and Tuesday (Maple class).

The children should come to school wearing their Barnby Road PE kit on these days. This cuts down on 'changing time' and means we can make best use of sessions, which the children really enjoy. This should include joggers and sweatshirt for colder weather.

In Year 4, we will often find time to discuss current affairs or events of national/ international importance. As part of this, we sometimes use the BBC's excellent "Newsround" programme, which deals with topics in an age-appropriate way.

If you are worried about your child watching Newsround, please do talk to your child's class teacher.

Homework

Children will be given weekly online homework activities to help practise what we have been doing together in class. Logins will be provided in children's reading diaries.

If homework is not completed by Thursday, we will remind children to complete this. If it is not complete by Friday, it will need to be completed during Friday lunchtime.

Year 4 Homework

Spellings and Reading will be set every week. Other activities will be set on a fortnightly basis. Please see below for more details.

	Homework	Suggested Timings	Set	Due	Monitoring
Week 1	Reading 3 x weekly	10 mins x 3	Friday	Friday	Reading diaries checked and signed by staff
	Spelling practice	5 mins x 3	Friday	Friday	Spelling test marked by staff
	Times Tables practice on TTRS	15 mins	Friday	Thursday	Checked by teachers
	Spelling, punctuation and grammar activity on www.SpAG.com (10 questions)	15 mins	Friday	Thursday	Checked by teachers
Week 2	Reading 3 x weekly	10 mins x 3	Friday	Friday	Reading diaries checked and signed by staff
	Spelling practice	5 mins x 3	Friday	Friday	Spelling test marked by staff
	<u>Maths</u> activity set on www.maths.co.uk (10-15 questions)	20 mins	Friday	Thursday	Checked by teachers

