



Year 4 Newsletter

Spring 2025 – Half Term 1

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the Spring Term! All of us in Team 4 hope that you had a relaxing and happy break and that you are ready for an amazing 2025! As always, we have a vast array of amazing topics and exciting enrichment opportunities coming up which we are all very excited about. We look forward to another positive and successful half term, at Priory Rise, in Year 4!

Year 4 Curriculum

In **English**, we are beginning the much-anticipated book ‘The Legend of Podkin One-Ear’ by Kieran Larwood. We will be using this exciting text to compose our own work in different genres including: a character description, a diary entry and a biography.

In **Maths**, we will continue to build on our multiplication and division skills with increasing levels of challenge. After this, we will dive into our measure unit where we will look at length and perimeter.

In **Science**, our focus will be on Sound! The children will explore how sound is made and how it travels to and is interpreted by our brains. We will be conducting a variety of experiments to deepen our understanding of sound.

DT lessons begin this half term, and we are going to kick it off in style by inviting in a local chef to teach our children how to prepare food safely. The children will research, plan, carry out and evaluate their own dish by utilising the skills and knowledge learned throughout this topic.

In **Music**, children will continue their learning journey with Mrs Horwood on the keyboard. They will build on their skills from last half term and will be focusing on moving their hand position, playing with two hands, and learning to read musical notation.

In **Computing** this half term, children will start a brand-new topic called introduction to AI which introduces children to the concept of artificial intelligence, focuses on how it is used in our lives, looks at the future of AI and finally, considers the role of Artificial Intelligence in creativity.

In **RE** this half term, we will be learning about Judaism. We will discuss the key beliefs and explore the features of a Synagogue and the importance of the Torah.

In **History**, our topic is on crime and punishment through the ages. We are going to immerse ourselves in different time periods and explore how crime and punishment has changed over time. We will focus on how the police force has changed and the impact this has had on our lives today.

In **PSHE**, we will follow the unit entitled 'dreams and goals'. We will discuss the importance of having dreams and goals as well as how to manage disappointment, resilience and setting realistic goals. We will explore progress and achievement and focus on goal setting for continued development.

Value of the Month

January: **Aspiration**



February: **Equality**



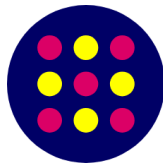
Homework

Homework will be set weekly.

It will be set on a Friday afternoon and should be returned the following Friday.
This will be set on MyMaths and on Google Classroom.

Alongside this, it is the expectation that children will practice their times tables each week using TTRS or Purple Mash.

At Priory Rise we consider homework to be extremely important as a means of continuing and developing the learning that takes place in the classroom. We welcome the support that parents provide in assisting their children with homework at home and encouraging the children to complete their tasks to the best of their ability and to the highest of standards.



Times Table Check

Later in the year, the children will carry out a national assessment on their times tables knowledge.

We want to prepare them as much as possible for this.

To support them in their progress, we have set a weekly assessment in Purple Mash for them to complete. This mirrors the actual platform of the check and is great practice to build their confidence, speed and accuracy

Please encourage your children to complete this regularly.

Thank you for your support with this!

Reading!

To encourage children to continue reading at home, we will be using 'punch cards' at school. These are small cards that are 'punched' once when the children have read at least three times each week. These will be stamped on a Friday.

After 10 stamps, the children will receive a special treat to reward their amazing reading at home.

It would be great if you could ensure you read with your child as much as you can at home. By doing this it will **significantly** help their reading progress within school. Thank you! 😊

Practising these comprehension skills at home is essential to supporting your child's progress and this half term we want to focus on ...



E is for Explain

Explaining your understanding of a text using evidence is crucial for great achievement and practicing these skills is a key strategy in ensuring rapid progress.

Here are some questions you could ask your child when reading together at home:

- Explain why the character is feeling that way. Use evidence from the text.
- Explain why the author chose those words/phrases.
- Why do you think the character's mood changes? Find phrases from the text to support your explanation.
- Did you enjoy this text? Explain why.

Physical Education

PE and Games in Key Stage 2 will take place on the following days this half term.

	Fletcher Class (Mrs Birmingham)	Wilson Class (Miss Major)	Larwood Class (Mr Green)
1	Wednesday	Monday	Wednesday
2	Friday	Thursday	Friday

Mr Smyth and Mr Elkington will teach the children both PE sessions.

Please ensure that your child arrives to school already dressed in their full kit, including **black** plimsolls or trainers, on the above days.

Also, as the weather becomes colder, please ensure that children have appropriate warm outdoor PE kit.



Library

All children will have the opportunity to visit the library once a week.

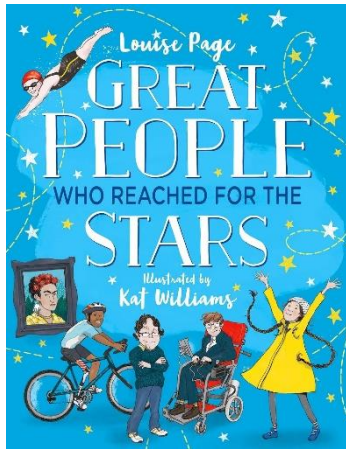
During their time in the library, the children have access to a wide range of texts.

These books are then allowed to be taken home.

Children who are 'free readers' are allowed to select 2 library books as these replace their banded reading book.

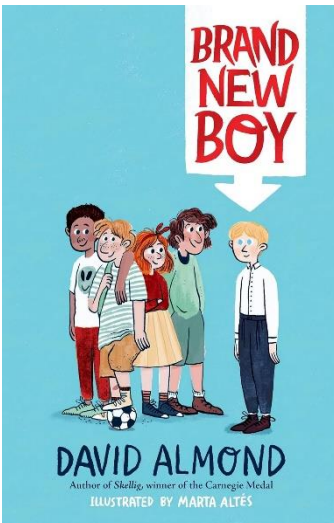


Book recommendations for year 4



Great people who reached for the stars by Louise Page.

A real page turner highlighting how having aspirations can be powerful! A collection of biographies based on the **true stories** of some of the most inspirational people throughout history. A **celebration of people who dare to be different**, this book features the biographies of **Stephen Hawking, Winnie Harlow, Greta Thunberg** and more.



Brand new boy by David Almond

When a new boy joins the class, everyone thinks he's a bit strange, but he's brilliant at football and loves crisps, and that's all that matters to Dan and Maxie. However, the truth about George is stranger than anyone could have imagined ... and more sinister, too. Can his new pals help him to become truly free?

This is a story that will make readers think about what it is to be human, about how to live life to the fullest, and about the importance of love. Marta Altes' fine illustration style is full of emotion - you'll find yourself poring over her drawings again and again. Whilst this is a funny and easy to read book, it's also sad and rather profound in places, ending on a beautiful uplifting note.

Dates for your diary

29th January: Chinese New Year Dress down day

3rd February – 7th February: Children's Mental Health Week

7th February: Wear a yellow accessory for Children's Mental Health Week

11th February: Class photos

11th February: Parent's Evening

13th February: Parent's Evening

14th February: Last day of the half term

Staff in Year 4

Teachers:

Miss Major– Year 4 Leader & Wilson Class Teacher

Mrs Birmingham – Fletcher Class Teacher

Mr Green – Larwood Class Teacher

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs Knowles, Mrs Pargeter & Mrs O'Regan

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter, I hope you have found it useful. If you have any queries, please remember you can email us at:

Year4@pr5d.com

