

Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn 2024 – Half Term 1

Welcome back to the new academic year in Lower Key Stage 2 – Year 4. We have lots of new and exciting opportunities planned for the children's learning and the year ahead!

The children have begun to settle well into the new routines at Priory Rise. Our first week's topic of 'Jungle Safari' has been a fantastic way for the whole school to start the new year. We look forward to seeing everyone arrive in their Jungle themed costumes on Wednesday!

Year 4 Curriculum

In **English**, we will begin the half term by looking at traditional Aboriginal 'dreamtime' stories before writing our own. After this, we will be moving on to persuasive texts, where we will be writing a persuasive travel advert to encourage travelers to visit Australia.

In **Maths**, we will be building on our understanding of place value and addition and subtraction.

In **Science**, our focus will be on the topic of 'States of Matter.' Children will learn about the properties of solids, liquids and gasses and begin to investigate how we can change states of matter through heating and cooling. After this, we will look closely at the stages of the water cycle and aim to understand processes such as evaporation, condensation & precipitation.

In our **Art** lessons, we will be producing some art in the style of Aboriginal Australians using the 'dot technique.' We will learn about the use of symbols in this style of art and use them in our own paintings.

In **Music**, children will begin to learn and develop the skills needed to play the keyboard! We look forward to learning a new instrument together with the help of Mrs Horwood!

In **Computing** this half term, children will revise their learning on the importance of online safety before moving on to learn about the different components of a desktop computer in our 'Hardware Investigators' unit.

In **RE** this half term, we will be learning about religions in our community. We will identify the beliefs of the Dalai Lama; identify the link between inspiration and religion & consider what it means to 'believe' and how this is linked to religion.

In **Geography**, we will develop our locational understanding of where Australia is; identify natural and man-made landmarks & understand the human impact on the Great Barrier Reef.

In **PSHE**, we will follow the unit entitled 'Being Me', where we will think about how we are unique.

Value of the Month

September: Integrity



October: Cooperation

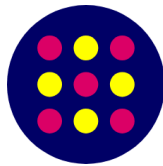


Homework

The children will be set a new piece which will be sent home weekly. Homework 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.



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! 😊

This half term, we wanted to involve you in our amazing VIPERS work. Practising these comprehension skills at home is essential to supporting your child's progress.



V is for Vocabulary

Learning and understanding vocabulary is a crucial element of comprehending a text.

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

- Find a word in the text that means the same as ... ?
- Can you think of 2 synonyms for... ?
- What is the definition of ... ?
- Find 2 words that describe ...
- How else could the author have written that?

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.



Staff in Year 4

Teachers:

Miss Major– Year 4 Leader & Wilson Class Teacher

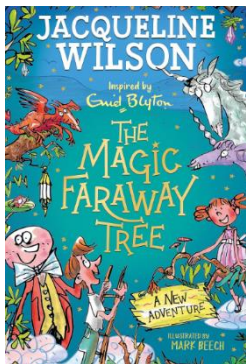
Mrs Birmingham – Fletcher Class Teacher

Mr Green – Larwood Class Teacher

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs Knowles, Mrs Pargeter & Mrs O'Regan

Book recommendations for year 4



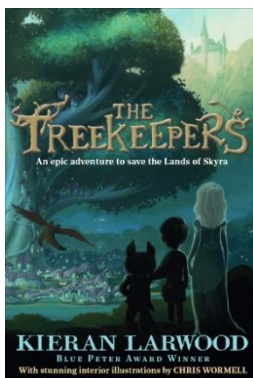
The Magic Faraway Tree – Jacqueline Wilson

Three kids, Milo, Mia and Birdy, are on a countryside holiday when they wander into an Enchanted Wood. Among the whispering leaves, there is a beautiful tree that stands high above the rest. The Magic Faraway Tree is home to remarkable creatures including a fairy called Silky, her best friend Moonface and more. Birdy is delighted to find that fairies are real. Even her older brother and sister are soon won over by the magic of the Faraway Tree and the extraordinary places they discover above it, including the Land of Unicorns. But not every land is so much fun. Danger looms in the Land of Dragons. Will Moonface's magic work in time to save the children?



The Danger Gang – Tom Fletcher

Franky can't wait to move to his new town - although he wishes he didn't have to leave his best friend Dani behind. But everything changes after the storm, when strange green lightning and powerful thunder crash down on the town. From that night on, the kids who live on Franky's street start to change. One by one, they become a little odd. A little unusual. A little... magical. Franky's always wanted to be part of an amazing gang - just like his hero, super-spy Zack Danger! And soon, he realises that there's real danger in store for himself and his new friends. And so the Danger Gang is born...



The Tree Keepers – Kieran Larwood

Liska lives in **Arborven**, a city surrounding an extraordinary tree that gives all those living there special powers. As a shapeshifter, Liska is training as a warrior. When she discovers that the Tree is under threat, it is her duty to act – but she can't convince anyone to listen to her.

Thank you!

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

Year4@priorityrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk