



St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Year 4 Autumn Term 2026–Curriculum Information API

We ♥
Maths



We are all
writers ...

We are growing
our learning

Rights Respecting Schools



English

We are excited to share the range of high-quality texts Year 4 will study this year. Through books, poetry and cross-curricular learning, children will develop their reading, writing and speaking skills while exploring a variety of themes and genres.

Autumn Term 1

We begin with *The Spider and the Fly*, a narrative poem exploring persuasion and consequences. Children will revise sentence structure and grammar before writing a diary entry from the perspective of one of the characters. Next, we will read *The Matchbox Diary* by Paul Fleischman, alongside poems from *Dancing in the Rain* by John Lyons. These texts explore memories, family history and identity, inspiring children to write dialogue, personal recounts and narratives.

We will then study *Kids Fight Plastic* which encourages children to think about environmental issues. This unit will culminate in pupils writing persuasive letters to local shops and supermarkets, encouraging them to reduce plastic waste.

Autumn Term 2

Our first text is *Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion*, which links to our Science unit on sound. Children will learn about how we hear sounds and write an explanation text about sound and the human ear. We will read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. Through this classic novel, children will develop their descriptive and narrative writing skills by creating diary entries, character and setting descriptions, and their own narratives inspired by the story.

We look forward to supporting the children as they grow in confidence, creativity and enjoyment as readers and writers throughout the year. This unit will allow children to develop their creativity while deepening their understanding of how authors create engaging fictional worlds. We look forward to sharing these exciting texts with the children and supporting them as they grow in confidence and enjoyment as readers and writers throughout the year.



Mathematics

In mathematics, children will follow the White Rose Maths blocks topics.



The blocks of maths children follow cover a range of mathematical topics: Place Value, the four operations and calculation methods (Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division). Alongside this, children will complete and explore reasoning questions in order to improve their explanation of calculating answers and reasons for their thinking. Times tables are also a crucial part of the Year 4 mathematics curriculum so along with a huge focus in school, continuing this revision at home is imperative. Times Table Rock Stars is a great way to support this at home.

History

Our History work focuses on the Romans and Colchester. Children will identify the landmarks within One Square Mile (OSM) of St John's Green and investigate their importance. Children will then create a timeline of Colchester landmarks and evaluate how each landmark provides evidence of local history. They will then identify important Roman figures in Colchester's history and the significance of Colchester Castle and its history. During this unit, the children will go on a local area walk to contextualise their investigations into Colchester's landmarks.

PE

Our PE topics for this term are ball skills and football followed by dance and netball next half term. Children will learn how to control and track a ball, attack and defend, work collaboratively and play competitive games. We will also be focussing on dance which will involve a range of movement patterns, being creative and evaluating performances.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, the children will be working to design and create a tote bag. The children will be working on their sewing skills by creating their design and then adding a fastening to their bag, to keep it closed.

PLEASE COLLECT ANY UNWANTED CLOTHING/MATERIAL TO USE FOR THE BAGS.

SCARE

In PSHE this half term, Year 4 pupils will develop important skills for building positive relationships and supporting their emotional wellbeing. They will learn how to cooperate effectively in groups, create and maintain healthy relationships, and understand when it is important to say "no". Children will also explore and describe a wide range of feelings, helping them to recognise and manage their emotions. In addition, they will discuss behaviours that can make people feel unhappy or unsafe, developing their understanding of respect, kindness and personal safety. In Autumn 2, pupils will continue to develop the skills needed to build positive relationships, stay safe and become responsible members of their community. They will learn about children's rights, how to keep themselves safe in different situations, and understand when it is important to say "no". Pupils will explore a wide range of feelings and emotions, learning how to recognise and talk about them appropriately. They will also discuss behaviours that can make people feel unhappy or unsafe and consider how their actions can have a positive impact on others. Through these lessons, children will be encouraged to think about how they can make a difference in their school, local community and the wider world.

Science

Autumn 1–States of Matter

In Science, Year 4 pupils will learn about the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. Through practical investigations, children will explore how materials can change state through heating and cooling, and will develop their scientific enquiry skills by observing, predicting and recording their findings.

Autumn 2–Sound

Our Sound unit will help children understand how sounds are made and how they travel. Pupils will investigate vibrations, pitch and volume, and learn how the different parts of the ear work together to enable us to hear. Through hands-on experiments, they will develop their understanding of the science behind everyday sounds.

Computing

Computing Systems and Networks

In this unit, children will learn how computers and digital devices connect through networks, including the internet, and how these systems help us communicate and access information. Pupils will also develop their understanding of online safety, learning how to stay safe when using the internet, protect their personal information, and behave responsibly and respectfully online.

Creating Media: Audio Production

Children will explore how audio can be recorded, edited and shared to communicate ideas effectively. They will learn the key stages of audio production, including planning, recording and editing sound. By the end of the unit, pupils will have created their own podcast, developing both their creativity and technical computing skills.

Spanish

In Spanish, the children are learning about the seasons and how to describe them. By the end of this unit, children will be able to say the name for each season and describe their favourite one. Children will then be learning about fruit and vegetables. They will learn the names of lots of fruit and vegetables, how to say quantities and how to request them. They will then use this in a 'market' setting to buy their groceries.

Geography

This term, we will be looking at where our food comes from. This will include trading responsibly, the journey of a cocoa bean, the impact on the environment and using atlases to locate countries.

PLEASE START COLLECTING/SENDING IN CLEAN FOOD PACKAGING (mainly fruit and vegetables) SO WE CAN IDENTIFY WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM

Religious Education

In Religious Education this half term, Year 4 pupils will be exploring key Christian beliefs about God and Jesus. They will learn about the Christian belief in one God, who is understood as the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and investigate the sources of authority that help Christians understand the nature of God, including the Bible, personal experience and Christian creeds. Children will also study the belief that Jesus is God incarnate (God in human form) and the Son of God, as well as the Christian belief that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. In addition, pupils will explore the Christian understanding that humans were created in God's image but became sinful and therefore needed salvation. Through the study of biblical texts, children will develop their understanding of textual theology by considering the genre, author, context and intended audience of different parts of the Bible. In Autumn 2, children will explore different ideas about the nature and existence of God and consider how people form beliefs and understand the world around them. They will learn about the differences between knowledge, belief and opinion, and discuss complex concepts such as truth, reality and whether something can be proven. Children will also study Sikh beliefs about God as the Supreme Truth, Ultimate Reality and Sustainer of all things. As part of this learning, they will explore the meaning of the term Waheguru and discover some of the other names and titles used for God within Sikhism. Through discussion, enquiry and reflection, pupils will develop their understanding of different religious perspectives and deepen their critical thinking skills.

Spellings

Spelling rules will be taught and explored at the start of the week. There will be an application activity on a Friday. Please practise the week's rule with your child throughout the week and see what other words they can find to match the rule.

Handwriting

We have started using our new scheme–Letter-join—as a school. This means we are going back to basics with letter formation before learning to join.

Parent sessions:

Abbey site at 2.30pm–Tuesday 15th September
Town site at 2.45pm–Wednesday 16th September

Art

Our topic links closely with Geography as children will be making 3D items of food from Mod Roc inspired by the artist Claes Oldenburg. Children will be responding to a creative stimulus through lots of different media, to work towards drawing, painting, collage, and sculpture.

Music

This term, Mrs Rowe will be teaching children the ukulele. They will learn to hold the instrument correctly, understand chords and play some simple songs.