

# Year 4 Newsletter

## Autumn 2023 - 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 settled well into the new routines at Priory Rise. Our first week’s topic of ‘Bears’ was a fantastic way for the whole school to start the new year. The children arrived at school on Friday in an array of outfits - a perfect way to end the first week back!

### Year 4 Curriculum

**This half term, we will be basing lots of our learning around the topic of ‘Australia’.**

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 **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 hope to 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.

Our final subject the children will be learning this half term is **Geography**. In our lessons, 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: Respect



## October: Appreciation



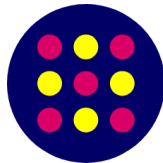
# Homework

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! 😊



## Physical Education

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

	Fletcher Class (Miss Birmingham)	Wilson Class (Miss Major)	Larwood Class (Miss Bastiani)
1	Wednesday	Friday	Friday
2	Wednesday	Friday	Friday

Mr Smyth and Mr Neal 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

Miss Bastiani – Larwood Class Teacher

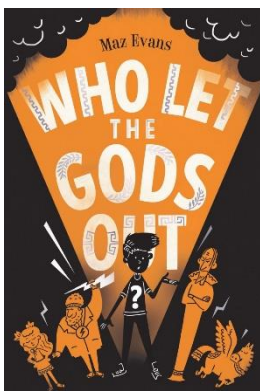
Mrs Birmingham – Fletcher Class Teacher

Mr Gifford – Trainee Teacher

### Teaching Assistants:

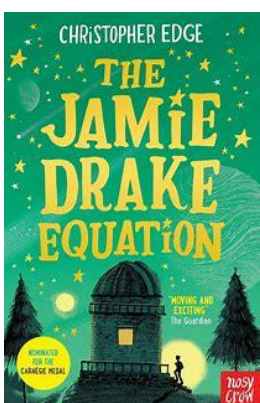
Mrs Awad, Mrs Knowles & Mrs Pargeter

## Book recommendations for year 4



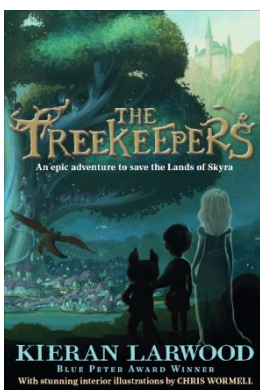
### Who let the Gods out? – Maz Evans

Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the task of saving the world - and solving Elliot's problems too?



### The Jamie Drake Equation – Christopher Edge

“The Jamie Drake equation” tells us a story of the Year 6 boy named Jamie Drake. His father is an astronaut working on the International Space Station. One day Jamie goes to the local observatory and meets an astronomer. He accidentally downloads the alien message on his phone.



### 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](mailto:Year4@priorityrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk)