

Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

Welcome!

Welcome back to a brand-new academic year in Year 4! We are having a fantastic first few weeks back, starting off with some wonderful team building and 'getting to know me' activities, followed by our theme week 'Under the Sea', which really lifted our learning off the ground. The children enjoyed a range of creative activities that sparked their curiosity and set a positive tone for the term ahead. It was a wonderful way to begin our journey together, and we are looking forward to all the learning and adventures this year will bring.

Curriculum Overview for Autumn 1

This half term, our topic is Australia. We will be exploring this fascinating country across the curriculum, learning about its geography, wildlife, culture, and history. Through a range of subjects, we will discover what makes Australia unique and compare it to our own country. We celebrate our learning with Australia Day on Thursday 24th September!

Master Readers – Cloud Busting by Malorie Blackman

English	Within English lessons, 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 travellers to visit Australia. We will end the unit by having a go at writing our own poems all about Australia!				
Maths	Week 1	Team Building Activities			
	Week 2	Representing numbers to 1,000 & number lines			
	Week 3	Representing & partitioning numbers to 10,000			
	Week 4	Number lines up to 10,000			
	Week 5	Rounding to the nearest 10, 100 & 1,000			
	Week 6	Add and subtract 1s, 10s and 100s			
	Week 7	Add two 4-digit numbers & subtract two 4-digit numbers			
	Week 8	Efficient subtraction & estimation			
Science	In Science, our topic will be ‘States of Matter’. The children will explore the properties of solids, liquids and gases, and investigate how materials can change state through heating and cooling. We will then move on to study the water cycle, focusing on the processes of evaporation, condensation and precipitation, and how they are connected in the world around us.				
Grammar	Week 3 Sentence Types	Week 4 Common and Proper Nouns	Week 5 Inverted Commas	Week 6 Fronted Adverbials	Week 7 GPS Revision
Geography	In Geography, we will be developing our locational knowledge by exploring where Australia is in the world. The children will learn to identify both natural and man-made landmarks, before focusing on the Great Barrier Reef and considering the impact humans have on this unique environment.				

DT	In DT, we will be learning about the Australian fashion designer Jenny Kee and exploring how clothes are designed and made. The children will then apply these skills by creating their own bookmark, stitching on a design and finishing it with a button.
PSHE	In PSHE, we will be following the unit Being Me, where the children will reflect on what makes them unique and special. They will also think about their role within the class and wider school community, setting personal goals and learning how their actions can have a positive impact on others.
French	In French this half term, we will be learning how to introduce ourselves confidently, saying our names, ages, and a little bit about who we are. We will also be learning vocabulary linked to families, so that we can talk about the people who are important to us.
RE	In RE this half term, we will be learning about Islam and the Qur'an. We will explore why the Qur'an is such an important text for Muslims and how stories play a special role within faith, helping to teach important lessons and values.
Music	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 Bosdet!
Computing	In Computing this half term, we will be learning about 2BeSafe, focusing on how to stay safe online and use technology responsibly. We will also be exploring Logo, a programming language that helps us develop coding skills by giving instructions to create patterns and shapes.

Value of the month: September: Respect



October: Appreciation



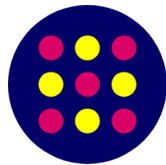
Homework

Children will be set a new piece of homework each week. This will be given out on Monday afternoons and should be returned the following Monday (specific dates will be confirmed on the homework sheet).

Homework will be set on MyMaths and Google Classroom, with copies also available on the school website if needed.

Alongside this, children are expected to practise their times tables weekly using TTRS or Purple Mash.

At Priory Rise, we view homework as an important way to extend and reinforce learning beyond the classroom. We greatly value the support parents provide in encouraging children to complete their tasks to the best of their ability and to a high standard.



Multiplication Check

In Year 4, all children will take the statutory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the Spring term. The purpose of the check is to see whether children can recall their times tables fluently, an important skill for future success in maths. The results also help teachers identify any children who may need extra support.



Children can practise their times tables at home using Times Tables Rockstars and Purple Mash, as well as other free websites such as Hit the Button. Parents can find more guidance about the check on the DfE website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/multiplication-tables-check>

Reading

Reading is a key part of learning, and we ask that children read at least three times each week. Please record each session in their red reading records, including a brief summary of what has been read and an adult's signature. Reading records will be collected and checked every Wednesday. It would be wonderful if you could read with your child as much as possible at home, as this not only supports their confidence but also makes a significant difference to their reading progress at school.



Attendance and Punctuality

At Priory Rise, regular attendance and punctuality are vital for children's learning, wellbeing and success. Attending school every day helps children make progress, build friendships and feel part of the school community.

Attendance is monitored throughout the year, and we work closely with families to support children whose attendance falls below expected levels. Please remember that attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence by the Department for Education.

Arriving on time is equally important, as even a few minutes late each day can add up to significant lost learning over the year. If attendance or punctuality becomes a concern, we will work with families to identify any barriers and provide support where needed. Please also note that holidays during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.



Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school every day and ready to learn.

Physical Education

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

	Doherty Class (Mrs Forbes)	Blackman Class (Mrs Potter)	Larwood Class (Mr Revers)
1	Monday	Monday	Friday
2	Friday	Friday	



Mr Elkington and Miss Bond will teach the PE sessions. Please ensure that your child arrives to school already dressed in their full kit, including **black** plimsles or trainers on their PE days. Also, as the weather becomes colder, please ensure that children have appropriate, warm outdoor PE kit.

Uniform

As the colder months approach and the weather becomes more unpredictable, please ensure that children come to school in the correct uniform each day. It is also important that they bring suitable waterproofs and warm clothing so they can stay comfortable and dry during outdoor activities and playtimes.

Library

All children will have the opportunity to visit the library once a week, where they can explore a wide range of texts. Books borrowed from the library can be taken home to enjoy. Children who are 'free readers' may choose two library books, which will replace their banded reading book for the week.

Our library days are as follows:

Doherty Class	Blackman Class	Larwood Class
Friday	Wednesday	Tuesday

Teachers in Year 4



Mrs Forbes
Year 4 Leader & Doherty
Class Teacher

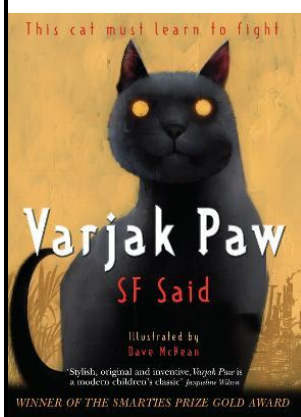


Mrs Potter
Blackman Class Teacher



Mr Revers
Larwood Class Teacher

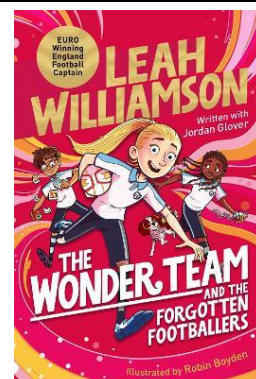
Book recommendations for Year 4



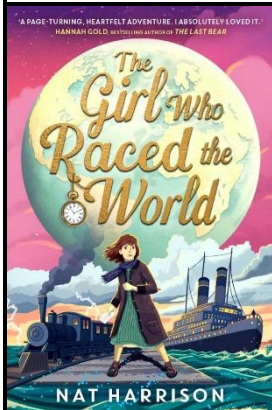
Mrs Potter recommends: **Varjak Paw** by S.F.Said
Varjak Paw by SF. Said

Varjak Paw is a young Mesopotamian Blue cat who has never been outside his family's safe, comfortable home. But when a mysterious man with two black cats arrives, Varjak must venture out into the dangerous city to save his family. With the help of new street-cat friends and the secret martial art of "The Way," Varjak learns about bravery, friendship, and what it truly means to be a hero.

**Mr Revers recommends: The Wonder Team and The Forgotten Footballers
by Leah Williamson & Jordan Glover**



When Maya and her friends discover a hidden time-travel secret, they are whisked back to the past - right into the world of football legends who have been forgotten. Together, they must solve a mystery, face exciting challenges, and learn about teamwork, courage, and never giving up on your dreams.



Mrs Forbes recommends: The Girl Who Raced the World by Nat Harrison

The Girl Who Raced the World by Nat Harrison is an exciting adventure about courage, determination and believing in yourself. Follow the journey of a brave young girl as she takes on an incredible race filled with challenges and discoveries. This fast-paced story is perfect for Year 4 readers who enjoy adventure and learning about the power of resilience.

Dates for your diary

- 11th September – Dress up day 'Under the Sea'
- 24th September – Year 4 Australia Day
- 24th September – Flu Vaccinations
- 25th September – Individual and Sibling Photos
- 7th October – Black History Day
- 24th October – Open Evening 5-6.30pm
- 20th October – Parents Eve 3.30-6.30pm
- 21st October – Parents Eve 3.30-5.30pm

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read our first newsletter, I hope you found it useful.

If you have any queries, please remember you can email us at: year4@pr5d.com

Email Etiquette for Parents

Positive communication between parents and school is vitally important in our Priory Rise community and, with this in mind, we have created a number of effective vehicles where parents are able to positively communicate with the staff team.

Where possible, if parents wish to communicate with the staff team, it is always best to talk to the class teacher at the end of the day, once all children from the class have been dismissed. However, where there needs to be an email, clear and respectful communication helps us work together effectively.

Please follow these guidelines when emailing into our year group email addresses.

Important to know

- Year group emails are not monitored between 8:20am and 3:30pm while teachers are teaching and preparing lessons. Please do not expect to receive a reply during these times.
- Urgent or time-sensitive matters should always be directed to the school office.

Before you hit 'send', please consider:

- Is it urgent? If so, contact the school office instead of emailing the year group.
- Has the email been written in anger? Pause and consider requesting a phone call or speaking in person to a member of the staff team.
- Is this part of a long email chain? A phone call or face-to-face meeting is usually better.
- Attendance or absence? Email the school office directly.
- Clubs, diary dates, lunches, medication, or music lessons? Contact the school office at office@pr5d.com.
- Behaviour or health concerns? If urgent, call the school office.
- If the issue is not urgent, please email the class teacher to arrange a face-to-face or telephone conversation or speak to the teacher at the end of the school day once all children have been dismissed.

Response times

- Teachers aim to respond to emails within 2 working days. It may be that the initial response is acknowledging receipt of your message
- If the matter requires investigation, a full response may take longer. Please be patient and understanding of staff responsibilities alongside managing email responses.

For urgent issues, always contact the school office by phone or email.