

Rabbit Class Newsletter

Autumn 2024



Welcome to Year 4! We hope you have had a lovely summer, and that your children are looking forward to a new school year. If any of them are feeling anxious about starting a new school year, please reassure them that lots will remain unchanged from Year 3 to Year 4, and we'll be there every step of the way to support them with the bits that are different.

Adults in Year 4 are as follows:

If you need to **contact us** about anything (no question is too silly), you can catch us at the door after school with any quick queries, or you can email us.

Miss Woods – iwoods@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Hynard – shynard@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

All emails will be answered as soon as possible.

Lunches and snack

From Year 4, children no longer get funded school lunches, unless they are entitled to free school meals. Each morning, children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian) and yellow (jacket potato) options, or packed lunch from home. Please make sure you have **funds in your Arbor account** if your child will be eating school lunches. They can mix and match school lunches and packed lunches throughout the week.

Fruit snack is no longer provided by the Government from Year 4. **Children may bring in their own snack, but this must be a piece of fruit.**

Drop off and collection

Drop off – between **8.35am and 8.45am**, at the side gate. Children walk through the playground to their classroom. Please try to be on time, because we often do one to one reading during the first part of the day.
Collection – at **3.15pm**, from the Y4 cloakroom door (near the play equipment).

What to bring each day

- Water bottle (named)
- Book bag (no rucksacks)
- Reading folder (record and book)
- Coat, sun hat (weather dependent)

Please label ALL clothing!

Home learning

Many parents ask how they can help their child at home. The answer to this is **read, read, and read some more!**

We don't set any regular formal home learning activities at Tewin Cowper. Instead, we really want families to focus primarily on reading, because it underpins *everything* the children learn in school. Reading supports writing, imagination, vocabulary, empathy comprehension, communication...to name but a few things!

Please aim to do the following **every day**:

- **Listen to** your child read, and **record this each time** in the reading record so we can see what they have been reading. A detailed comment each time is not necessary.
- **Read to/with** your child every day, and enjoy the experience together! This could be picture or chapter books, but could also include recipes, comics, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Children will be reading in school (either with an adult or independently) a few times a week, so please make sure they bring in their reading folders **every** day, or they might miss their reading slot.

We will also be encouraging the use of Times Table Rockstars at home to support with times tables, and there will be other optional home learning projects and activities – watch this space!

Library

We will have a class library slot will be once a week. Children will be able to choose a book from the library to take home, share and enjoy. **Please ensure that this is back in their bookbag each Wednesday so they can swap it for a new book.** If they would like to keep it for longer than one week, they have the option to do this.

Class reading book

Our first whole-class reading for pleasure book will be **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**. We will be enjoying some of this as a class each day. If your child would like to buy a copy of the book, or borrow one from the library, so they can follow it in class as we read, they are welcome to. This is not essential, though!

PE

PE in Year 4 will take place on **Monday and Friday**, and will take place from the first week back. **Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper branded t-shirt and jumper.** Children must come into school dressed in the new PE kit on those days. If you have ordered your child's kit but it has not arrived yet, please let them wear the old kit for now, and then use the new kit as soon as you have it.

They will be doing half of their PE lessons outside this first half term, so must be wearing clothing appropriate for the weather, as well as suitable trainers.

Autumn Term: learning overview

English

We will be looking at six main types of texts: narrative, persuasion, poetry, inform and entertain.

Our first unit is narrative, we will be looking at a lovely graphic novel called Arthur and the Golden Rope. This story tells the tale of unlikely hero who will hopefully save his town from the evil wolf. We will be working towards creating our own graphic novel using the techniques gathered throughout the unit.

Other texts we will be using this term include:

- The King Who Banned The Dark
- A Small Dragon
- Until I Met Dudley
- Starbird

Allotment

In year 4 we get the opportunity to visit the allotment! This is a very exciting a great opportunity to learn more about the world around us.

PE

The class is taught by Premier Education for one lesson, and Miss Woods for the other. This first half term, the children will be doing both gymnastics and OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities). In Autumn 2, they will move onto PE Hockey and Dance.

Maths

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts. We begin the term by repeating some of the core Year 3 content: Reviewing of column addition and subtraction.

Although it might sound as if we are backtracking a lot, these skills will be used throughout Year 4.

Throughout the rest of the term, we will be looking at:

- Numbers to 10,000!
- Perimeter
- 3,6,9 times tables.

You can help your child at home by focusing on key skills and maths fluency. This could include practicing number bonds and times tables. Hit the button is a brilliant website for practising this, it is interactive and quickly develops mental maths skills.

Music

We will journey into South America, learning to play music from this country, with a particular focus on children's rhythmic, singing and notation skills.

Science

Our first unit is Digestion and Food, we will be looking at describing the function of key organs in the digestive system, identifying the types of human and comparing human teeth to other animals' and take on the role of a naturalist. Later in the term we will be looking at electricity and circuits.

History

We will be investigating how children's lives have changed over time. Looking at the changes in children's lives through time, children learn how children's spare time, health and work have changed. We will be learning about a day in the life of a working child and the significance of Lord Shaftesbury in changing the lives of children.

Art

This term's focus is drawing. We will be looking at proportion, composition and pattern in drawing and combining media for effect when developing a drawing into a print.

Geography

Why are rainforests important to us? We will be looking at different ecosystems and biomes around the world. We will be focusing on the Amazon and its importance. Looking at its features and layers and discussing the global human impact on the Amazon. This unit will also include fieldwork comparing and contrasting different ecosystems.

Design and Technology

Making a slingshot car! Using a range of materials, design and make a car with a working slingshot mechanism and house the mechanism using a range of nets.

Computing

To begin with we will be focusing on staying safe online, building on what they have previously learnt. We will be learning how to navigate the internet in an informed, safe and respectful way. A vital skill before diving into the world of computing.

PSHE

We start by thinking about our relationships with each other and others outside school. We move onto valuing difference: considering what makes us the same or different from other people.

RE

In our Creation unit, we will be focusing on the creation story and what Christians learn from the creation story. Looking at why and how Christians pray and making links between what stories in the Bible say about human beings.

French

Topics and vocabulary we will cover include colours, days of the week, months of the year, numbers, salutations, classroom commands and verbs.