

Juniper Class Newsletter

September 2025

Adults in Year 4 are as follows:

Mrs Katie Murphy – teacher Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday AM.

Mrs Fiona Haydon – teacher Wednesday PM, Thursday, Friday.

Miss Claire Smith – teaching assistant Monday to Friday.

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.

Mrs Murphy – kmurphy@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Haydon – fhaydon@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Lunches and snacks

Each morning, children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian) blue(cold), 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 not provided by the Government in 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 have spelling first thing in the morning.

Collection – at **3.15pm**, from the Y4 classroom door.

What to bring each day

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

Please, please label ALL clothing!

Home learning

We can't emphasise enough the importance of reading.

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, This could be picture or chapter books, but could also include recipes, comics, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc, whatever they enjoy!

Please make sure children bring in their reading folders **every** day, or they might miss their reading slot.

In their reading diaries, there are spelling lists that show which words they know. Please focus on the words that have **not been highlighted**.

Continue to use TT Rockstars regularly to improve times table fluency.

There are also other websites you could use to practice such as

[Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)

[Times tables games - Timestables.co.uk](#)

[Times tables games and songs 1-12 - BBC Bitesize](#)

Allotment

During Autumn 1 the children will be going to the allotment on a Thursday afternoon. They will be split into two groups and go alternate weeks. The allotment can get very muddy so it would be helpful if the children could have wellies to wear. (If possible it would be useful to keep them in school)

Class reading book

Our new class reading book is The Last Bear by Hannah Gold. 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 takes place on **Mondays and Thursdays**, and will take place from the week of the 8th September. Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper t-shirt and sweatshirt.

Bottoms should be plain navy jogging bottoms or plain navy football shorts. Children come into school dressed in the PE kit on PE days.

One of their P.E slots will usually be outside, so they must be wearing clothing appropriate for the weather, as well as suitable trainers.

Autumn Term: learning overview

English

Unit 1: Narrative writing – Creating a graphic novel focusing on setting, characters and plot.

Unit 2: Persuasive writing – Writing and performing persuasive speeches.

Unit 3: Explanation – Writing an explanation for a mechanical invention.

Unit 4: Narrative – Planning and writing an adventure story.

Unit 5: Poetry – Writing and performing free verse poetry.

The texts we will be using this term include:

- Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd Stanton.
- The King who Banned the Dark by Emily Haworth- Booth.
- Until I met Dudley by Roger McGough.
- This Book Thinks you're an Inventor by Georgia-Anson Bradshaw.
- Starbird by Sharon King Chai.
- Zeraffa Giraffe by Dianne Hofmeyr.
- A Small Dragon by Brian Patten

PE

The class is taught one lesson by Mrs Murphy and one lesson by Mrs Haydon. One lesson will usually be inside and the other outside. The lessons for the Autumn term will cover outdoor and adventurous activities and gymnastics.

Maths

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts.

Topics we will cover this term include:

- Review of column addition and subtraction.
- Numbers to 10,000.
- Perimeter.
- 3,6, 9 times tables

Please continue to support your child with their **maths fluency** by practising things like:

- **Number bonds** to 10, 20, 50 and 100 (e.g. 3 and 7, 12 and 8, 35 and 15, and 44 and 56)
- **2, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times-tables then 3,6 and 9.**
- **Counting in 25's 50's**

In the Summer term all Y4 children are assessed on all of their times tables by a computerised timed test so it is really important they are practising regularly at home so they can recall them quickly.

TT Rockstars is good for rehearsal of known times tables (login in reading record)

Music

South America instrumental lessons. The children will be learning about the history and features of Latin American Music. They will be performing a salsa styled song

Science

Digestion and Food: Exploring the role of the digestive system and comparing teeth and diets of different animals as part of a food chain.

Electricity and Circuits: Exploring electrical components and conductivity through circuit building and real- life applications.

Art

Drawing – The children will explore tone, texture and proportion to make realistic drawings. They will learn what is an effective composition in art and create a collaborative piece of art inspired by an artist.

Design and Technology

Mechanical Systems: Design and make a slingshot car using a chassis.

Textiles: Fastenings – Identify the advantages and disadvantages of different types of fastenings and design a book sleeve with a suitable fastening.

PSHE

Families and Relationships – To learn that families are varied in this country and across the world.

To understand the physical and emotional boundaries in friendships. To recognise stereotypes in gender and disability.

French

Phonetics and learning to present themselves and talk about their family.

History

How have children's lives changed? The children will find out how children's education, health and leisure have changed from the Tudor and Victorian times until present day. They will look at different sources to deduce information. They will learn about the work of Lord Shaftesbury and the impact he had on children's lives.

Geography

Why are rainforests important to us? The children will learn about the location of the tropical rainforests in the world. They will find out about what the Amazon rainforest is like and who lives there. They will find out how rainforests are changing. The children will compare the rainforest to a local woodland.

Computing

Computer systems and networks:
Collaborative Learning – To work collaboratively on shared documents, such as google forms, slides and spreadsheets.

Programming: Further coding with Scratch – Programming a game using variables, sensors, and if statements then evaluating projects.

Online Safety

RE

Christianity

Creation and Fall – What do Christians learn from the Creation Story?

Christmas Incarnation- What is the Trinity? – Look at gospels such as John 1 and what they mean to Christians.

Describe how Christians show their beliefs about God and the Trinity in the way they live.