

We will be reading...

In English, we will be reading **Varmints** by Helen Ward and Marc Craste. Its striking illustrations and haunting, evocative text tell a mysterious tale of a threatened natural world, and a hopeful new start. We will be using this as a starting point to write powerful setting descriptions, explanation texts and kenning poems.



In whole class reading, we are reading the classic **Matilda by Roald Dahl**. Here we will continue to practice our range of reading skills including inference, prediction and ambitious vocabulary.



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Year 4 Newsletter Spring 1 2026

Welcome back Year 4. We hope you have had a great Christmas break. We can't wait to continue with all our learning.

We hope you all now feel rested and relaxed and ready for the new term.

Mrs Duller, Mrs Jacobs and the Year 4 support team Ms Vane

Home Learning

Spelling Home Learning- The weekly activity is based on that week's spelling learning. The activity will be given out as a paper copy in the green Home Learning book **every Friday**. Please ensure it is returned to school by **Wednesday** each week.

Times Tables Rocks Stars - Please log in to TTRS each week to practise all the multiplication tables. Logins are stuck in the front of Home Reading Journals.

Reading - Children are expected to read aloud to someone at home and their reading record completed at least **three** times a week. Support for reading is invaluable in terms of the children's progress in their writing across all subjects.

Please record any reading in the Home Reading Journal. Children can change their book every day.

How can you help at home?

English – Please can you encourage your child to read to an adult at least **three** times a week. We would appreciate it if you could ask them questions about what they are reading e.g. What is this paragraph about? What do you think will happen next? How has the author described one of the characters? Please sign the record book each time. Please could you also encourage and support your child to complete the weekly spelling activities.

Maths – Please support your child in learning their **times tables and related division facts**. Many children need further support to tell the time using analogue time, including using the 24 hour clock. Maths concepts can be consolidated by encouraging children to regularly go on Mathletics.

Important Dates

Thursday 22nd January – KS2 Quiz event (FoR)

Friday 23rd January – Wolves Family Assembly

Monday 2nd February – Mental Health Awareness week

Tuesday 3rd – Friday 6th February – Wellbeing Café

Friday 6th February – Bingo Night (FoR)

Saturday 7th February – Raglan Swap Shop

9th February – Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th February – Parents' Evening

As mathematicians we will look at...

- Formal and informal methods of Multiplication and division.
- Distance in metres (m) and kilometres (km)
- Perimeter:
 - Shapes (rectilinear)
 - Missing lengths
 - Polygons
- Fractions
 - Regular fractions
 - Improper fractions
 - Mixed number
 - Adding and subtracting fractions

Useful Websites

[https:// play.trockstars.com](https://play.trockstars.com) for Times Table Rockstars

www.mathletics.co.uk

www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games e.g Hit the button, Coconut multiples

www.teachingtime.co.uk/draggames/sthecl.html -

Telling the time – Stop the Clock

<http://primarygamesarena.com/Years/Year-4> - lots of subjects

Duolingo – for new languages

Year 4 Wider Curriculum

As Geographers we will be answering the question 'What are the similarities and differences between the South East and the South Aegean, Greece?' We will learn about the world and how it is represented on maps. In addition, we will discover Europe's countries and capital cities and recap the UK's countries and cities. We will use fieldwork to investigate the human and physical geographical features in our own local area and learn about a region in a European country (the South Aegean in Greece.) Finally, we will use our knowledge to compare the two regions and establish similarities and differences.

In RE... we will be learning about different Religions and answering the question: are all religions equal? The children will be identifying different religions and making links, explaining these connections by referring to people, places and beliefs.

In PE we... will be continuing to develop key skills with coach on a Tuesday. In our teacher led PE lesson, on Fridays, the children will be developing their gymnastics movements, focussing on body control, rhythm and partner work.

REMINDER of PE days: **Tuesday and Friday**

Please ensure the children come in dressed ready for PE as they will be unable to get changed at school.

In Computing... we will be exploring the features of effective audio books and working as a team to script, record and edit our own.

As Musicians, we ... will be listening to and appraising Medieval Music as well as understand the historical context. In addition, we will be performing and composing rhythm patterns using different structure e.g. AAB BAA

As Scientists, we... will be investigating electricity and how it works. We will be: looking at common appliances that use electricity. constructing a simple circuit, learning how the layout of circuits affects the flow of electricity and investigating conductors and insulators. Throughout the half term, we will be doing some practical experiments to test our understanding of this area and understanding how it impacts our everyday life. This will help us become the next leading Scientists in this field!

In French... we will investigate our family tree and how we can link to all the members of our family. Sticking with people, we will also be looking at the human face and thinking about its various features and how to describe them.

As Artists we ... will be investigating the famous African artist, Gakonga, who focuses on the contrast between bright vivid colours and darker tones. At the end of the term, we will be producing our own piece of art using pastels, inspired by his work.