

# Welcome to Year 4



## Information Booklet



## **Reading**

Children in Year 4 are expected to read 4 times a week at home. Parents will need to sign the home/school diary to show that the child has read. This is really important in developing various skills.

Your child will now be developing confidence and increasing independence not only in what they read but in what they choose to read. But they still need you to guide them. These ideas will help you to keep a good balance between reading for enjoyment across a range of interests, developing the skills to help your child read fluently and encouraging independence. You should also have received a letter regarding our new reading scheme to further enhance your child's reading.

### **Things to try with your child:**

#### **Shared reading**

##### **1. It's good to share**

Hearing a story read to you (rather than watching a story on TV or as a film) is hugely important for developing reading skills, but it's also a relaxing routine which prepares children for a good night's sleep. Hearing a story read out loud also means that children can have access to books that may as yet be too challenging to read alone - you can whet their appetite!

##### **2. Open up the world of reading**

Share the variety of your reading with your child: books, magazines, websites, and apps, to show how reading can help you to follow your interests and to get involved. Help them to join blogs, online communities and clubs that link to their hobbies whether it's swimming, football, dance or music. **Always check that any online communities children sign up to are safe and monitor their use of them.**

## **Developing fluency and understanding**

##### **1. Encourage predictions**

When reading stories, good readers are always thinking ahead to start to work out what might happen next. You can help your child become better at this by asking key questions such as: *'I wonder if ... will happen? Who do you think will...?'*

##### **2. Research for homework**

Your child may be asked to investigate a topic or find answers to questions set in class. You can help them with their research skills by talking about where to look to find the answers, although you may need to remind them to look in books and use the library as well as the internet. Children can struggle with information overload so they need your help to 'search and sift' both sites and information to make decisions.

## **Building independence**

##### **1. Valuing choice**

It's really important to value your child's choices even when a book looks too easy or too difficult. Children can read books that appear to be too difficult (especially if it is a topic that interests them) but you'll need to guide them through tricky words, pictures, ideas or even the layout of an information book.

##### **2. Not giving up – Resilience!!!**

As children read more challenging books, be aware that there might be times when they struggle and may seem reluctant to continue – so help them through those patches by reading a bit with them to get them started or hooked into the next chapter. Always balance this with sensitivity and valuing their choice – it's got to be fun.

## Expectations for the end of Year 4 and areas to work on with your child.

### English.

Reading and writing skills are taught through sequences of literacy lessons. Each literacy Teaching Sequence begins with reading a text and completing activities to ensure children have a secure understanding of the text and can talk about its features. The children will complete some spoken language and drama activities about the text before they gather ideas to plan and write a new text.

#### Reading. Word reading-

To be able to:

- Read accurately new words they encounter in the books they read, especially exception words where the spelling and sound are different.

#### Comprehension-

To be able to:

- Develop a positive attitude to reading and understanding of what they have read by increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books including traditional tales, poetry and myths and legends.
- To develop an understanding of what they have read independently by drawing inferences, predicting what might happen from details implied and discussing words and phrases that capture the readers interest and imagination.
- To retrieve and record information from non-fiction text by being clear about the information they have been asked to find and by using titles, headings, sub-headings and indexes to locate information.

#### Writing. Transcription-

To be able to:

- Write words that are often misspelt and to write from memory sentences, dictated by the class teacher that include words and punctuation so far.
- Increase the legibility and quality of their handwriting, e.g. by ensuring that the cursive script is used correctly.

#### Composition-

To be able to

- Plan their writing by discussing texts similar to the one they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from their structure, grammar and vocabulary.
- Draft and write by composing and rehearsing sentences orally and organising paragraphs around a theme.
- Evaluate and edit by assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggest improvements.
- Read aloud their own writing, to the group or whole class.

#### Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar-

To be able to:

- Develop their understanding of how spoken language differs from the formal language used when writing.
- Extending the range of sentences by using a wider range of connectives e.g. when, if, because, although.
- Choosing nouns and pronouns appropriately within a sentence.

# Numeracy

At Forsbrook Primary School we are dedicated to promoting enthusiasm and enjoyment of mathematics through the provision of a range of experiences which enable all children to achieve and which develop, maintain and stimulate their curiosity and interest. We place great emphasis on encouraging children to talk about their ideas in mathematics and to reason mathematically, using a wide range of vocabulary. Developing the children's confidence and accuracy with their understanding and recall of mathematical facts and knowledge and the application of these skills and concepts to real-life problem solving contexts is also at the heart of our teaching and learning.

## Number-

To be able to:

- Read and write, order and compare numbers up to 10,000 and understand the value of digits.
- Round any number up to 10,000 to the nearest 10 or 100.
- Count in steps of 2, 3, 4, 5,, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 1000 from any given number, and 10 or 100 more or less than any given number.

## Calculation-

To be able to:

- Recall times tables up to 12 x 12 quickly and accurately.
- Add and subtract numbers mentally with up to 2 digits.

## Fractions and Decimals-

To be able to:

- Identify and name equivalent fractions of a given fraction with denominator not more than 12.
- Reduce fractions to their simplest form.
- Recognise and write decimal equivalents to  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  and any number of tenths and hundredths.

## Geometry and Measure-

To be able to:

- Identify lines of symmetry in 2-D shapes presented in different orientations.
- Identify acute and obtuse angles and compare the size of angles.
- Convert between different units of measures, for example: kilometre to metre, metre to centimetre, kilogram to gram, litre to millilitre, hour to minute, minute to second.

## Data-

To be able to:

- Read, interpret and solve problems using information in bar graphs including reading scales on axis.

## Problem Solving-

- Use a range of strategies to solve problems and communicate their thinking.

## How you can help your child's maths learning:

One of the most valuable things you can do is talk to your child about their maths learning. Ask them what they have been learning and encourage them to explain. This is why our maths home learning sheets are based around a game which you play with your child. It provides opportunities for them to talk and explain their maths understanding. We all use maths in our everyday lives which means that there are plenty of opportunities to help your child with their maths learning by involving them in everyday activities.

1. Count in jumps of the same size such as 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s and so on. Children should count backwards as well as forwards. Physical activities such as skipping and playing catch can be incorporated to encourage motivation.
2. Collect items such as football cards, buttons, straws, milk bottle tops and group them into ones, tens and hundreds.
3. Look for numbers in digits and words in books, on posters, in comics, on buses, cars and road signs and prices and ask children to read them. Children could also photograph them.
4. Talk about the shape of 2D and 3D objects. Try and identify shapes in the world around us.
5. Ask your child to help when you are doing things with money such as paying for items in shops.  
How much will these items cost?  
How much change will you receive?
6. Ask them to help when you are measuring items such as weighing ingredients or measuring the length or height of an object. Use metric units of measure.
7. Help them to understand time, read both digital and analogue clocks. Involve them in dates and diaries, knowing the calendar months, days in a year, family celebrations and appointments.
8. Use a magazine or the internet to find out about when a TV programme or film is on and how long it will last.
9. Read bus and train time tables and calendars.
10. Help them to learn their times tables and related division facts (see the following page.)

### How to Help Your Child to learn their Times Tables.

Children who have mastered their tables gain a solid foundation in mathematics that will help them throughout their progression within the subject. The national expectation is that every child must be able to answer any times table question mentally within 5 seconds by the end of year 6.

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 8s, 10s times tables and related division facts.	<b>All times tables and related division facts up to x12.</b>	All times tables and related division facts up to x12 and apply these to other calculations e.g. $6 \times 6 = 36$ so $60 \times 6 = 360$ .	All times tables and related division facts up to x12 and apply these to other calculations e.g. $6 \times 6 = 36$ so $60 \times 6 = 360$ .

It is expected that in Year 4 children are able to recall all of their multiplication facts to x12 in any order. Last year our school signed up to 'Times Tables Rock Stars'. This is an amazing tool that we can access at school and at home to help develop your child's ability to recall multiplication facts mentally. Please take the time to read the information provided below.





### Goal:

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations.

Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables! To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to  $12 \times 12$  in less than 3 seconds!

The goal is for all participating rockers to be Times Table Rock Stars after 20 weeks!

### Log in:

1. Type [trockstars.com](http://trockstars.com) into your browser's address bar or google 'Times Tables Rock Stars'.
2. Log in. Your child's details are as follows:

The screenshot shows the login page of the Times Tables Rock Stars website. The page has a purple header with navigation links: Home, Register, Login (highlighted in pink), Benefits, Getting Started, Events, About, and Contact Us. Below the header is a large 'Sign in' button with a decorative flourish. The main content area is a light purple box containing a login form. The form has three input fields: 'Your school or organisation' (with a dropdown menu), 'Username Or Email', and 'Password'. There is a checkbox for '[Show Password]' and a link for 'Forgotten your password? Set yourself a new one.' Below the form is a blue 'Sign In' button. The footer of the page features a row of small icons representing different musical instruments and the text 'Designed by Allrollover.'.

\*Usernames and passwords can be found stuck in at the front of your child's home school link diary.

## Parents:

World famous rock musicians are the best at what they do because they've spent hours practising guitar chords, writing music or playing on the drums. It's just the same with times tables – all Times Table Rock Stars need to practise and practise and practise.

It's essential that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night. In my experience, short bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week.

And this is where you come in. For your child to be fully motivated and for them to get the best out of the practice, they need your help. Without your praise and your reminders, without you sitting down next to them or checking their work, practising times tables will not feel important to your child.

My recommendation is that you are there to help them three evenings a week for half hour during the first two weeks. This will help to establish a routine. After that, I recommend that you help your child get started for the first 10 minutes and then check on them at the end.

Over the course of the next few weeks and months, your child WILL get faster and more accurate with the times tables. All your hard work and theirs WILL make them a Times Table Rock Star

### Contact your child's teacher if...

- You have username or password issues
- Something isn't working or you're not sure how it works
- You have something nice to say about ttrackstars.com!

Enjoy!

## OTHER USEFUL WEB SITES

### Topmarks:

Hit the button

Daily 10

Coconut multiples

Mental Maths train

Maths fishing

**BBC skillswise-** multiplication games

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

## Times table check

In Year 4, the children will take part in a compulsory Times Table check in June. This information is then formally reported. This will be a selection of random Times Table questions for the children to answer to the best of their abilities. It is nothing to worry about, it will purely serve to allow the next teacher to offer any extra assistance with their times tables, should they require it.

## **Homework**

### **Reading**

We ask that children read at least 4 times per week. Please sign your child's diary to indicate when they have read. On a Friday morning, we will check your child's diary and stamp the bottom of the page if they have read at least 4 times. This will then gain them a star on the 'Reading Road to success' (which can be found in their reading diary). For every week your child reads at least four times, they will take another step along the road. When they eventually get to the bronze finish line, they will receive a certificate. Their next goal is then silver, where they will receive a special book mark, and then Gold. This is the ultimate goal, where they receive a book token.



### **Spelling**

At the beginning of each half term, parents will receive a list of Spelling words which shows which spelling patterns and spelling list words we will be focusing on each week in school. These spellings will then be tested at the end of each half term. After the test, your child will highlight all words they spelt correctly on their spelling lists (in their own reading diaries) and will spend time in school practising any words they struggle with. Please encourage your child to regularly practise their spellings at home.

### **Maths**

At the beginning of each half term, you will be sent the 'Key Instant Recall Fact' that your child will be focusing on for that half term. Please encourage your child to practise these at home as well as in school.

### **Creative Curriculum**

Homework books containing optional homework tasks will be sent home at the beginning of each half term; these will all be linked to our topic for this term. We look forward to celebrating the wonderful creations that your children have done at home!

## **General Information**

### **Class routines and information**

- The children use lockers so I ask that the equipment they bring in is kept to a minimum. A small bag is essential as is any suitable stationary the children wish to bring in. We will provide stationary for any children unable to bring in their own.
- PE takes place every Tuesday and Thursday and it is vital that your child has their PE Kit in school on the correct days as we are now unable to borrow any kit. It is also now recommended that the children bring in their PE kit at the start of the week, and then take it home with them on Friday to be washed over the weekend.

### **Personal, Social, Moral and Spiritual Development**

On a personal, social, spiritual and emotional level, we encourage pupils to take more responsibility for their own learning, grow in reflection and prayer, build greater confidence and independence, attempt to solve problems themselves and develop their own personal organisation. In line with the school's broad aims, we encourage them to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens- in partnership with you as parents.



### **Wish to Speak to a Member of Staff?**

We are always happy to listen to parents and encourage you to contact the class teacher right away if something is worrying you – even if it is just a niggle. Teachers will be available via email or telephone call, or please write a comment in your child's school link diary which the child can then take to show their teacher.

### **Personal Belongings**

Pupils are responsible for their own belongings and parents are asked to ensure that all garments and belongings are clearly named. All personal toys (including balls and skipping ropes) are not allowed at school. At special events such as end-of-term parties or special projects, pupils may be given permission to bring toys to school.

### **Mid-morning snack**

Pupils in KS2 are allowed to bring in a healthy snack as a mid-morning snack to eat during playtime. Hot tuck will no longer be available to purchase so please encourage your child to bring in their own snack.

### **Water**

Keeping hydrated is conducive to good learning. Please encourage your child to bring a reusable, named bottle of water to school to drink throughout the day. These can be topped up as required.

### **Contact details**

It is very important also that we are updated with your current contact details in case we need to get in touch with you via the school text message service/ a telephone call. For those of you who do wish to receive school information via email and have not done so before, please inform the school office – [admin@forsbrook.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@forsbrook.staffs.sch.uk)

### **Home school link diaries**

The home/school diary which your child receives at the beginning of the year is key. Children will use this to write in any additional messages to go home and I will also write in it should I need to get a message to you. Diaries will now only be checked once a week on a Friday, if there is an important message you wish for me to read urgently, please make sure your child brings their diary directly to me or write a separate note for them to hand to me. Furthermore, please continue to make a note in the diary of when you have heard your child read or encourage your child to write in their own diaries, however **parents must sign this off**.

I hope this has been helpful and if you still need any further information or clarification on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me via home school diaries and we can arrange a meeting if required.

Many thanks,

**The Year 4 Team**