



## Welcome to Year 4!

Teaching Year 4 is an absolute privilege as it is the year that I think the children really start to grow up, mature and become more independent. In Year 4, we want to continue to inspire a love of learning by making learning fun and exciting. We really value aiming high and trying our best to rise to any challenge. This being said, whether it be socially, emotionally or academically, we are here for the children and for you, so please do not hesitate to come and find me if there are any issues or concerns. We will always be more than happy to help.

### Year 4 Staff

**Mrs Swift (Class Teacher)**

This year I have been teaching for 17 years, seven of which now have been at Burscough Village Primary School. I have loved every second of working in this amazing community and look forward to my second year in year 4. Alongside my teaching role, I am the Deputy Headteacher, a role which I really value as it gives me a great opportunity to shape the learning of the children across the school. I lead specifically on Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Online Safety and I am a Designated Safeguarding Lead in school. I also have a passion for Creative Arts and Music. Last year, I gained my National Professional Qualification for Headship.

**Miss Weston (Teacher of PE/Spanish/RE/Computing & Class Teaching Assistant)**

Hola! I'm your passionate PE Teacher with a Level 5 Qualification in Physical Education. I love all things sporty and enjoy inspiring the children to take part in sport and physical activity. I believe everyone can shine and excel in education in their very own way. I love teaching and I have taught and supported the children at our school now for the past 10 years. I continue to look forward to working many more memorable years at Burscough Village Primary working alongside the lovely Mrs Swift. We are going to have so much fun!

### Important Dates

**Multiplication Check - June 2026**

A statutory online test for Year 4 pupils to assess their ability to recall times tables up to 12x12. It contains 25 questions, with six seconds to answer each, and helps identify children who may need additional support in mastering multiplication facts for future math success.

**Winmarleigh Residential Trip (PGL) - April 2026**

**Roman Trip - Summer Term 2026**

## Important Information for Year 4

### PE Days

Year 4 pupils will have swimming on a Tuesday afternoon for the Autumn Term (starting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September). The second PE session will be on a Thursday afternoon.

Pupils should bring their full PE kit and trainers (please see school website for details) at the start of term and leave it in their locker until the end of the half-term.

If at any point PE kits need to go home for cleaning/after-school PE club etc., please ensure that they return to school the next day.

In the juniors, we take part in an active session every day which will involve taking part in various physical activities. The children will need a pair of black trainers in their PE bags. Regular physical activity not only supports healthy bodies but also boosts concentration, confidence, and wellbeing, ensuring children are ready to learn and thrive.

### Homework

Homework is important because it helps children remember and practise what they learn at school. When children do their homework, they get better at their skills and start to feel more confident.

Homework also teaches them how to be organised and responsible, which is useful in school and later in life. If your child tries their best and does their homework, they will do better in school and become more independent. By encouraging and supporting your child with their homework, you help them become a stronger and more confident learner.

English & Maths Homework - Year 4 pupils will receive a piece of Maths and English homework each week. Homework will be handed out on a Wednesday & collected in the following Wednesday. This work is always based off what we have done in class and never new learning so children should be able to do this independently. If children are finding it difficult, please encourage them to come and speak to me themselves and I can guide them through it.

Spellings/Phonics - Every Tuesday children will receive 10 spellings which they will have to learn ready for a test the following Monday. Please ensure children practise their spellings at home- this can be through games or written. Alongside this, pupils will work on these spellings during spelling lessons in school.

Reading - Reading really does support the children with so much of their learning. Because of this, pupils should try to read as frequently as possible at least 3 times per week. Please ensure you record this in their reading records as we will be checking these on a Wednesday.

Please take the opportunity to show interest with reading and discuss these books with your child, helping them develop a love for reading while supporting their progress. When your child finishes a book, ensure it is returned so they can discover something new.

We ask that you record each reading session in their reading diaries. This helps us keep track of their progress and lets us know where extra support may be helpful. Your involvement at home truly makes a difference!

## Year 4 Online Safety

As children begin to explore the online world, it is more important than ever for us as parents to help keep them safe. The internet offers many exciting opportunities for learning, playing, and connecting with friends, but it also brings risks we all need to be aware of. Here are some simple tips and advice to support your child with online safety:

- **Supervise Device Use:** Whenever possible, encourage your child to use their devices in family spaces where you can keep an eye on what they are doing. This helps you notice anything unusual and start conversations about their online activity.
- **Social Media Accounts:** Children in Year 4 are too young for most social media accounts. Platforms like TikTok and Instagram have age restrictions (usually 13+), and these rules are there to keep children safe. Please help your child understand why waiting is important, and avoid letting them set up accounts or share videos online.
- **Mobile Phones:** We recommend that children do not have their own mobile phones until they are much older and mature enough to use them safely and responsibly. For now, encourage your child to use family devices or tablets with supervision.
- **Parental Controls & Screen Time:** Set parental controls on all devices and agree limits for how long your child spends online each day. This helps children balance screen time with other important activities like sport, reading, and hobbies.
- **Talk Openly:** Keep talking with your child about what they do online. Let them know they can always come to you if something worries or confuses them. Encourage kindness and respect in all online interactions.
- **Check Devices Regularly:** Make time to look through your child's apps, games, and messages together. Explain the importance of not talking to strangers, sharing personal details, or posting photos and videos.
- **Age Ratings & In-Game Spending:** Stick to games and apps that are age-appropriate. Be wary of in-game purchases and talk about how these work so children don't spend money by accident.
- **Kindness Online:** Remind your child to treat others with kindness and to tell an adult if they see or experience anything mean, unkind, or worrying.

Remember, children look to us for guidance. By setting clear boundaries, talking regularly, and staying involved, you help your child build safe and healthy habits online. If you ever have questions or need advice, please get in touch, we can help every child enjoy the internet safely and confidently.

It is always exciting meeting a new class and I am already so impressed with their attitude to learning, their supportive approach of each other and their overwhelming enthusiasm. I think this year is going to be very special indeed. I look forward to working with you and your children to ensure they have a thoroughly successful year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Swift & Miss Weston