

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4! We are looking forward to getting to know your child and supporting them as they grow in confidence, curiosity and independence. This year is full of exciting learning opportunities, and we are eager to see each child's unique light shine.

We know this message includes quite a bit of information, but we hope you find it useful. We've included everything we believe will help you understand what to expect this year and how we can work together to make it a successful and enriching experience for your child.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office or speak to us at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your continued support — we are excited to work together to make this a successful and joyful year.

Warm regards,

Mrs Hague and Mrs Stoker
Birch Class Teachers

Who will be teaching my child:

Mrs Hague will teach the class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Stoker on a Thursday and Friday. Throughout the week, your child may also be taught by other members of our dedicated staff team for specific subjects e.g. Mr Rose will be teaching PE alongside Miss Slane and Miss Forster, and Mrs Gibson will be teaching French. Together, we aim to provide a rich and varied learning experience, guided by our school values of being caring, courageous, Christ-like, and part of a celebratory community.

What your child will be learning about in Year 4 : An overview

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
English	Themes: Taking Courage and Darkness and Light Fiction: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Non-Fiction: Shackleton's Journey Poetry: Poems from a Green and Blue Planet	Themes: Window to the World Non-Fiction: Non-chronological report based on the Explorers Fiction: Granny Come Here on the Empire Windrush by Patrice Lawrence	Theme- Unearthing Civilizations Fiction- Podkin One-Ear Non-Fiction: The Humans: Ancient Civilizations by Jonny Marx Poetry: Until I met Dudley by Roger McGough and Chris Riddell

		Poetry: The Undeclared by Kwame Alexander	
Maths	Number and Place Value Addition and Subtraction Measurement - Area	Multiplication and Division Measurement – Length and Perimeter Fractions – including decimals and percentages	Fractions – including decimals and percentages Measurement – Money and Time Statistics Properties of Shape Position and Direction
Religious Education	What do we know about the Bible and why is it important to Christians? Why do Christians call Jesus 'The Light of the World'?	What do Christians believe about Jesus? Why is Lent such an important period for Christians?	How and why do people show care for others? Why do people visit Durham Cathedral today?
Science	Animals including Humans Children will describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans; identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions; construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey. States of Matter Children will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C); identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.	Electricity Children will identify common appliances that run on electricity; construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers; identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit; recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit; recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors. Sound Children will identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating; recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear; find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it; recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.	Living Things and Their Habitats Children will recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment; recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.
Art and Design	3D – Animal Collage Sculpture and Collage	Italian Masters Sketching, drawing and painting.	Mayan Art Draw and print
Computing	IT - Connecting Computers IT – Pages – Creating a Document IT - Creating Media – Audio Production	CS – Coding – Scratch CS - Physical Computing – Micro bits	IT – Creating Media – Photo Editing IT - iMovie – Video Production

Design & Technology	Cooking and Nutrition – Adapting a recipe	Electrical Systems – Making torches	Structures - Pavilions
Geography	Where does our food come from?	Why are rainforests important to us?	What are rivers and how are they used?
History	Why did the Romans invade and settle in Britain?	How hard was it for the Romans to invade and settle in Britain?	How did the achievements of the Ancient Maya impact their society and beyond?
Music	The Little Light of Mine – Gospel Music The Pink Panther – Music from Film Composing with Colour	Whole Class Ukulele	Global Pentatonic - Traditions and Culture This listening unit is based around the pentatonic scale. The Horse in Motion Composing to a Moving Image Favourite Song – Folk and Rock Style
Physical Education	On the Attack End zone Gymnastics Level 2/3	Indian Delights Mini Tennis	Faster, Higher, Further Athletics Scores Arc Rounders
PSHE	Health and Wellbeing – The process of growing from young to old, people who look after us, how to maintain a healthy lifestyle The Friendship Formula Exploring how to be kind, respectful and safe within our friendships.	Relationships – communicating our feelings, similarities and differences between people, recognising and challenging stereotypes	Living in the wider world – our local environment, the value of democracy
French	Phonetics 2 Presenting Myself - How to present oneself both orally and in written form. My Family - Building on knowledge of the possessive form in French to build a personalised written and spoken presentation about family.	What is the Weather Like? - How to describe the weather and present a weather forecast in French. In the Classroom - Building the skills to present both orally and in written form about what is and is not in their school bag.	At the Tea Room - Children will perform a short role-play in a French tearoom, using transactional language as well as much of the previously taught grammar. The Romans - Learning to read and understand more complicated text in French through the medium of a familiar period of history.

What your child will need and homework

Your child will be given a reading book and reading record. Please continue to listen to your child read regularly at home and send them to school every day with both books.

Your child will bring home 8 spellings on a Monday which we'd like them to learn for a test on the following Monday. 6 of these words will be based on our weekly spelling rule, and the other 2 words will be high frequency words from Years 2, 3 and 4.

They will also receive a piece of Maths homework every Monday which should be handed in by the following Monday.

PE and Forest Schools

P.E.: **Thursday** (Come into school in PE kit)

P.E. takes place every Thursday and is led by Mr Rose. On this day, children should come to school dressed in their P.E. kit, ready for active learning.

This term, the children will be receiving 5 weeks of coaching in 'Bee Netball', starting on **Tuesday 9th September**. Please can you ensure they come into school in PE kits on Tuesdays too, for these 5 weeks.

Each class will take part in a Forest School session once per term. On these days, children will be learning outdoors and engaging in hands-on activities, which may involve mud and messy play. Please ensure your child comes dressed in appropriate clothing, including waterproofs and sturdy footwear. We recommend older clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Key Dates

Below, you'll find key dates that we hope will be helpful as you plan ahead. All other dates and updates can be found on Weduc and reminders are shared in the weekly whole school update. Please do keep an eye on these platforms, as new dates will be added and while we aim to keep plans consistent, changes may occasionally be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

- **Tuesday 16th September** – Flu immunisation
- **Tuesday 16th September** – Colour fun run
- **Thursday 18th September** – House Cross Country
- **Monday 22nd September** – Forest School session
- **Wednesday 24th September** – Individual photographs
- **Friday 26th September** – European Day of Languages
- **Friday 10th October** – Year 4 Worship
- **Friday 24th October** – half-term
- **Monday 3rd November** – return to school
- **Week beginning 3rd November** – Parents Evening
- **Thursday 20th November** -UK Parliament Education Team visit for Y4/5/6
- **Monday 24th November** – Forest School session
- **Thursday 11th December** – Christmas dinner and jumper day
- **Friday 19th December** – last day of term

Statutory Assessments

All children in Year 4 nationally are required to complete a 'multiplication table check' in the two-week period from the 1st June. We will be providing further information about this closer to the time.

Thank you in advance for all of your support. We are really looking forward to working with your wonderful children. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, via the office, if you have any questions or concerns as the year progresses.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hague and Mrs Stoker