

January 2026

Dear parents and carers of children in Year 3 and 4,

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a relaxing Christmas holiday. We will outline in this letter a few details about the routines in class and underneath you will find an overview of the curriculum areas being studied this term.

Reading Books - the children will continue to record their reading in their Reading Records. The expectation for the whole school is that every child reads to an adult at home for 5-10 minutes every day. They will receive Dojo points for every day they can show a signature to say they have read at home. Supporting your child to read at home is the single most important thing you can do in terms of aiding academic progress. We know there is a direct link between those who read regularly and those who leave primary school with good SATs scores and more importantly, a firm foundation for doing well at secondary school. We will be reading to the children regularly.

Water bottles - please ensure all children bring a water bottle to school.

PE kits - Mr Porter will teach the whole class on Tuesdays and Fridays and as such they do require a full PE kit in school at all times. This includes shoes suitable for doing lessons outside. If your child does an after-school sports club and goes home in their kit, they are responsible for returning it to school the next day. Dark tracksuit bottoms may be worn in the colder weather; long hair must be tied back and earrings removed or covered.

Homework - we will be setting some homework using the MyMaths platform which we will provide logins for. We try very hard never to set content we haven't covered! Therefore, if your child is unable to do the homework, I would encourage them to work through the accompanying lesson on MyMaths as revision. We will review whether we will set any additional homework later in the term but for now, the priorities for work outside of school are reading every night and mastering times tables and other maths facts.

As always, if you have any queries about your child's experience in class, please catch us on the playground or make an appointment through the office. Mrs Tonge will be in class Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Grieves Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We don't monitor messages on class dojo but can have emails forwarded to us via Admin. Please bear in mind that there may well be a delay in responding to emails as we will usually be teaching. We are very much looking forward to continuing to work with your children this year.

Regards,

MRS JANE GRIEVES

MRS REBECCA TONGE

Curriculum Area	Details
Maths	To start the term, we will be learning the remaining times tables, as well as revising the ones learnt previously in year 2/3. We will then move onto formal written methods of multiplying and dividing. Later in the term we will start our work on fractions. We will also be working on plotting points using a grid to create and translate shapes; finding area and perimeter of shapes and calculating with money. We start each lesson with some arithmetic to build fluency and use of different strategies. For year 4, we will dedicate some time to learning and practicing times tables in readiness for the national times tables test in the spring. Times Tables Rockstars can still be used to practice all times tables up to 12 x 12.
English	We have started the term using the book, <i>The Wolves in the Walls</i> to inspire our sentence writing. We will be focussing on accurate dialogue, building vocabulary and using descriptive techniques such as similes to improve our writing. Later in the term we will move on to writing some non-fiction based on our topic work. All children will take part in a guided reading session every week where they will practice their comprehension skills such as retrieval, inference and explanation. Spelling is taught in discrete lessons and the focus is on recognising common spelling patterns and learning techniques for retaining phonic knowledge.
History/Geography	This term we will focus on the continent of Europe. Improving our knowledge of countries, cities and physical features of Europe. We will then focus in on Northern Italy and the Alps tying this in with the Winter Olympics and comparing life in the Alps with Offley village.
Art / DT	For the first half-term we will be investigating pneumatic processes and making a simple pneumatic toy. Our second half term will focus on food product design including tailoring recipes to a budget and designing packaging.
Science	Year 3 will be taught science by Mrs Grieves and Mr Edwards will teach Year 4. Y3 will be looking at states of matter to start; using practical investigations to decide whether a material is a solid, liquid or gas. After half term, we will move onto studying the digestive system and how we get nutrients from what we eat. Y4 start with learning all about rocks and soils before moving on to solids, liquids and gases.
RE	We will study Sikhism alongside Christianity this year, using an enquiry-based approach to investigate whether sharing is important to Sikhs and thinking about what is good about Good Friday.
Music	Year 3 will continue to develop their recorder skills followed by analysis of Benjamin Britten's works including use of rounds and harmony in his 'Friday Afternoons' collection. Year 4: The beginning of the term will be focussed on the remaining material for the Young Voices concert. We will then be learning about composer Benjamin Britten, using songs from his 'Friday Afternoons' collection and trying some composition inspired by his rounds and canons. We will end the term with our Easter celebration songs.
PE	Mr Porter will be covering a unit on dance to work on coordination and spacial awareness. He will also be continuing to develop team ball skills and team working through netball in the first half term and football in the second. Tennis / pickle ball will take over from dance in the second half term.
Computing	<u>Year 3: Emailing:</u> Children will understand what email is and that it can be used to send information around the world. We will send an email (as a class); understand the importance of being kind online and recognise when digital behaviour is unkind; know that not all emails are genuine, recognise when an email might be fake and what to do in this situation. <u>Computing systems and networks: Inside a computer:</u> Children will recognise basic inputs and outputs; understand that a computer follows instructions; understand the purpose of some computer parts; decompose a tablet computer.

	<p><u>Year 4: HTML:</u> Children will learn that web pages are built using different programming languages, including HTML; change the HTML of a web page; explore more complex components of a web page using the 'inspect' tool.</p> <p><u>Website Design:</u> Children will explore the features of Microsoft Sway to learn how to create content for a web page; plan content for a web page; plan and create a website and evaluate its success.</p>
PSHCE	We will start the term looking at healthy lifestyles and how we can start to take more responsibility for our own physical and mental health. Later in the term, we will use a citizenship unit of work to explore the rights and responsibilities of children and the role of local groups to protect our democracy.
French	<p>Mrs Ottolangui will be teaching French to Year 3 and 4 in their year groups.</p> <p>Year 3: We will start with a topic about food which will include the French story 'I'm Hungry!' To help learn vocabulary, we will be asking and answering questions with a partner, playing games and singing songs. French dictionaries will be used to sort masculine / feminine nouns and we will investigate how Easter is celebrated in France.</p> <p>Year 4: We will begin with intercultural work to understand La fête des rois (Épiphanie) then move on to our two main topics of transport and Jacques et les haricots magiques - the life cycle of a seed. Our dictionary work will cover definite and indefinite articles and possessive adjectives.</p>

Homework and Resources Timetable Year 3 and 4 Spring 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reading book and reading record	Reading book and reading record	Reading book and reading record	Reading book and reading record	Reading book and reading record
	PE Kit		Music folder and recorder (year 3)	Music folder PE kit
			Maths homework (MyMaths) due	