



FOREST PARK
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Year 4 - Class Handbook



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Welcome to Year 4

Welcome to Year 4. I am looking forward to meeting you and working with your child. This handbook contains practical information to ensure a smooth transition.

Year 4 is an exciting year. The children gain more responsibility within the classroom and have many opportunities to stand in for Year 5 and Year 6 when they are unavailable.

We have high expectations with regards to presentation and handwriting; this will be an area of focus in Year 4. We aim to have all children writing in pen but they do need to earn their pen licence.

The children will participate in many exciting events this year, including the summer show, concerts and our residential to Castleton.

At Forest Park we have an open door policy, so if you would like to speak to me, please book an appointment via email or the school office.

Here are some quotes from past pupils about life in Year 4:

'We enjoy focusing on times tables.'

'We have the opportunity to self-assess our learning.'

'We enjoy practical and exciting history and science lessons.'

'We get to go on a residential.'

Kind regards,

Mrs Hewitt

dhewitt@forestparkprep.co.uk



Core Subjects

Literacy

Our English units will focus on one particular genre at a time and will last between two to four weeks. The genres include fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Children will explore texts through speaking and listening activities, such as role-playing and 'hot-seating'. Two days per week will focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar and comprehension from our Collins scheme. These lessons involve a focus on sentence structure, vocabulary and punctuation.

The children will also be taught to identify their own targets for developing their writing, and will use their targets to improve future pieces of work.

Reading

The children have the opportunity to take part in the famous World Book Day, where we aim to promote a love of reading.

Due to our busy timetable, it is not possible for us to hear your child read on an individual basis every day, unless support is required. Therefore, it is very important that pupils take their reading books home each day and read for around 10 minutes every night. The children are responsible for ensuring they change their reading books on a regular basis. Children will be given time to complete 10-15 minutes of sustained silent reading at various points throughout the week.



Mathematics

Children will take part in a variety of practical, 'hands-on' activities. They will continue to build their repertoire of mental calculation strategies and known number facts, which they will apply to problems, set in 'real-life' contexts. Each term, the main focuses will be on:

Number

Geometry

Statistics

Measurement

Science

The children will have a science lesson every week, in which investigational skills are developed alongside knowledge and understanding of topics such as sound and electricity. Group work plays an important part in science lessons; therefore, an ability to co-operate and work sensibly with others is vital. The children also lead their own learning and have an opportunity during Science Week to teach other children in the school a particular aspect of their topic. The children are also provided with science workshops presented by Mad Science.

Foundation Subjects

Games

On Thursdays, your child will have their P.E. lesson; this is taught by specialist sporting staff from 'City in the Community' (Manchester City Football Club), who work with all our children and enable them to reach their full potential. Each term, the children will focus on a range of different sports, including: football, netball, rugby, cricket and hockey. Games kits will need to be brought in on this day for the children to change into.

On Mondays, the children also have the opportunity to participate in dance lessons provided by Trafford Council. This changes to performing arts in the summer term, in preparation for the summer show.

Swimming

Swimming lessons take place on Wednesday afternoons at Sale Leisure Centre. Children are provided with a 45 minute swimming session where they gain excellent swimming skills. Lessons are taught by fully-trained swimming coaches and the children are regularly assessed and grouped depending on their swimming ability. The children take part in the school swimming gala, swimming for their house. They also have the opportunity to swim for the school.

French

The Year 4 children will have a half-hour French lesson every week, delivered by Madam Cotton. Through interactive games, songs and visual aids, the children will be taught a range of vocabulary and sentence structures, related to topics such as 'in the classroom' and 'transport'.

Computing

In Year 4, the children are allocated a specific slot for use on the Chromebooks. A Chromebook is a laptop running Chrome OS as its operating system. The devices are designed to be used primarily while connected to the internet, with most applications and data residing 'in the cloud'. The children will use 'Purple Mash' software to learn a range of skills, including coding and animation. The children will also have opportunities to use ICT within other lessons, such as history, using Chromebooks for research and themed activities on Purple Mash.

Music

Your child will have two music lessons a week with Mrs Wainwright. These lessons provide children with the opportunity to enjoy musical experiences through listening, singing, movement and dance and by playing tuned and untuned percussion. Music is taught as a discrete subject and as a means of supporting other areas of the curriculum, in order to give pupils the best opportunity to develop their musical knowledge and skills. Your child will have the opportunity to join the school choir and will also get the chance to take part in several concerts and events, such as Sale Festival and the Christmas concert. In addition to taking part in numerous Young Voices concerts in recent years, the junior choir have taken centre stage at the MEN arena as part of the world famous André Rieu concert.

Humanities

The children are provided with two humanities lessons each week. In geography, children will extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area. They will develop mapping skills using coordinates and will gain an understanding of various geographical features. In history, children continue to develop a chronologically-secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They will note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. Examples of topics that Year 4 cover are as follows:

- The Romans
- The Egyptians
- Rivers
- Volcanoes
- The Water Cycle

Art and Design Technology

Design technology is based on our curriculum topics. We make Egyptian cartouches and shadufs in the autumn term, while our Roman topic, later in the year, will involve creating mosaics. In art, we focus on particular artists and their work, such as Edward Tingatinga.

Religious Education

The children have an RE lesson each week, delivered by Mrs Chebaro. During the lesson, the children learn about different and diverse religions and cultures, following a set scheme of work. Children explore different topics, such as: Buddhist Festivals, The Story of Christianity, Sikh Worship, Jewish Worship, Islamic Rites, and What do Hindus Celebrate? The children develop their skills and knowledge through reading stories, interacting with each other and completing a piece of work based on the lesson. We also arrange visits to various places of worship to widen their learning and understanding.

Homework

Children are set homework every night. This work should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete, although research projects and extended pieces of work should take longer. Children are also expected to read their home-school reading books for at least ten minutes per night and spend time learning their weekly spellings and practising their times tables. Your child will receive a spellings booklet, so that you can support this learning at home.

If your child is unable to complete their homework as it is proving to be too challenging, please stop after 30 minutes and inform me via email or your child's homework diary.

Example Homework Timetable

Day	Activity Focus
Monday	English Mental arithmetic: In most cases, the children will work from their Schofield and Sims book. The children should complete no more than two pages
Tuesday	Topic: Topic work related to humanities, usually research. Mathematics: A range of mathematics work will be given to underpin your child's basic numeracy skills and/or to reinforce the day's lesson.
Wednesday	Mathematics English: Grammar and punctuation
Thursday	English: Comprehension Mathematics
Friday	Non – verbal or Verbal Reasoning (N.V.R. or V.R.): Schofield and Sims book- no more than two pages. Mathematics

Continued...

Continued...

On-going

- Home-school reading books
- Learn weekly spellings
- Time tables

Extension:

- Mathematics, Purple Mash, Reading Eggs
- Additional research relevant to current or future topics

Educational Visits

Years 3 and 4 are taken on at least one trip every term. These are usually related to one of our current topics. For example, we have visited the Lowry to watch a theatre performance based on our English topic. We have also visited Manchester Museum and Tatton Park. Pupils also have the opportunity to attend a residential trip to Castleton, Derbyshire. This continues to be a great success. The children take part in a collection of activities, including gem panning, fossil casting and hiking. This trip takes place at the beginning of the summer term.

Assessment

Children are continually assessed to enable teachers to respond to their individual curriculum needs. More formal testing takes place in the autumn and summer terms. We test in English, mathematics, N.V.R. and V.R. We also track reading and spelling ages. These results will then be inputted into their progress report.

Reporting

Each term, you will receive a progress report on your child, reflecting his/her attainment and effort within this reporting period. The attainment grades are based upon teacher assessment and national standards achieved in formal testing for this year group. Each term, you will be given the opportunity to meet with class teachers to discuss your child's progress and development.



Example: Timetable for Year 4

	Form Time		Break		Lunch			
	1	2	3 Science	4	5	6	7	8
Mon	Maths	Maths	Dance/ PA/ Gym	English	Art/ Design/ DT	French	Art/ Design/ DT	Art/ Design/ DT
Tue	Maths	Maths	Music	English	History/ Geography	History/ Geography	Science	Science
Wed	Maths	Music	English	English	Swim	Swim	Swim	English
Thu	Maths	Maths	English	English	PE	PE	History/ Geography	History/ Geography
Fri	Maths	Maths	English (ICT)	English (ICT)	NVR/VR	RE	Science	Science

*MA
 Assembly
 House
 Assembly
 Break - 10:25-10:45am
 EY/KS1 - 11:45-1:00pm - KS2 12:15-1:15pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dance / Performing Arts/ Gym: 10:45 - 11:25 Children change at break French: 13:45 – 14:15	Music: 10:45 - 11:25	*Whole School Music Assembly: 08:55 - 09:10 Music: 10:45 - 11:15 Swimming: Coach will collect at 13:15 Lesson from 13:20 – 14:05	PE – 13:15 -14:15	

Example: Long Term Plan for Year 4

Curriculum	Autumn	Spring	Summer
English	Fiction 3; Adventure Stories Non-Fiction 3; Instructions and explanations Poetry 3; Traditional Poems	Fiction 2; Stories in familiar settings Non-Fiction 2; Non-chronological reports Poetry 2; Performance Poetry (cc- recounts)	Fiction 1; Stories from Other Cultures Non-Fiction 1; Information texts Poetry 1; Humorous poems (cc- scripts and dialogue)
Mathematics	Number: Place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals. Geometry: Properties of shape, position and direction. Measurements: Mass and time.	Number: Place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals. Geometry: Properties of shape. Measurements: Length, area and perimeter. Statistics.	Number: Place value, addition and subtraction (including money), multiplication, division, fractions, decimals. Geometry-properties of shape, position and direction. Measurements: Volume and capacity. Statistics.
Science	Good Vibrations, Human Impact, Switched On.	Our Changing World, In a State.	Who am I? Where does all the food go?
Art and Design	Study a famous artist - landscape artists.	Creating sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas. Work with materials including charcoal.	Fabric/ Weaving Looking at designers
Computing	Coding using Espresso coding, Creating QR codes	Communication – create a wiki	Programming using MS Small Basic and Scratch.
Design and Technology	Shang Dynasty of Ancient China – Shang vessels, irrigation farming.	Apply knowledge of mechanical and electrical control when designing and making functional products. (CC Instructions).	Design and build the habitat for a particular animal in relation to our science topic 'Who am I?'
Geography	Describe & understand climate, rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, water cycle, settlements, trade links, etc. (CC Explanation)	Study an area of the UK and beyond Use fieldwork to observe, measure & record (cc- letter writing)	
History	Shang Dynasty of Ancient China	The Romans	
French	Speaking, listening, reading writing: Unit 6: In the classroom Unit 7: Transport	Speaking, listening, reading writing: Unit 8: School subjects and preferences Unit 9: Parts of the body	Speaking, listening, reading writing: Unit 10: Illness – explaining which part of the body hurts Revision of Y4 units to date
PE	Football, netball, rugby, dance	Hockey and Tennis	Cricket, rounders, athletics, gymnastics
Music	Recorders	Rhythms around the world	Graphic scores
RE	Christmas The Bible	Christian way of life. Easter- The last supper Understand the significance of the Last Supper, based on Seder meal as part of Jewish Passover.	Rites of passage



If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to come and discuss them with any member of staff.

We value our 'open door' policy.

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Mr Tucker
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