

Year 4 Newsletter

Our School Rules

Be safe.

Be kind.

Be responsible.



All the Year 4 staff are excited to welcome the children back to school and support their learning this year.

We know the children will continue to build on their independent learning skills from Year 3, as well as their team work and coaching abilities.

We know this will be a fantastic year!

Miss Sales Miss Ward Mrs Swift

Reading

In school, each class will have a novel that they read daily together. This half term 4SW are reading Grimwood, 4S are reading The Last Firefox and 4W are reading The Wild Robot. We hope the children will share their knowledge of these novels at home.

Reading is a vital skill for learning at White Hall Academy and in later life. The best readers are those who read outside of school and talk about what they have read.

By year Four, most children should be secure on their phonics knowledge and able to read longer books independently. Wherever your child is on their reading journey, it is still important to listen to your child read aloud and to ask them questions about their reading to support their understanding. Some children within Year 4, who are still developing their confidence and fluency with reading, will have a levelled phonics reading book. These will be **changed once a week**, provided the child has read and understood their book.

We expect children to **read at least three times each week at home**, recording the pages read and a short additional comment about any tricky or interesting parts of the text.

Our learning this half term

To start off this year we have an exciting focus topic. Our theme for the Autumn term is 'Rainforests'; within this topic we will learn about South American rainforests and the Mayan civilization.

Maths – Year 4 will be working to develop fluency, problem solving and reasoning skills. This term we will be focusing on reasoning with numbers and then working with the four operations.

Children will be encouraged to develop their knowledge of the times tables. By the end of Year 4, all children should know all their multiplication facts. In July, Year Four pupils, will participate in a National Multiplication Check. Due to the importance of these skills, we would appreciate your help in supporting your child to learn their tables at home. Teachers will set regular tasks on TTRS and along with reading this will form the main home learning each week.

English– To begin the Year we are starting a new program in school called 'Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar'. We will be looking in depth at the key building blocks of sentences so we can write and punctuate sentences accurately. We will then be applying the skills in written a Non-chronological report about a Rainforest animal. Over the year, pupils will be learning to use several grammar features confidently including: fronted adverbials, possessive apostrophes, writing in paragraphs and using conjunctions to form different sentence types. There will also be a focus on handwriting and spelling patterns.

Other subjects – History will make up a large part of our Thematic work this term. We will learn about the Mayan civilization and their way of life, as we develop our historical skill of looking at evidence. In Geography and Science, we will continue our link with the rainforest, studying threats as well as looks at distribution of natural resources. We will also learn about classification of living things both from our local area and the rainforest.

IMPORTANT DATES Individual photos: Monday 13th October 2025 Ancient Maya day: Monday 20th October 2025 Half term: 27th October 2025 - 31st October 2025	Termly Learning Conferences: 12th November 2025 Swimming: Week commencing 10th November 2025
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Year 4 trips and Experiences

We know from previous experience how much children benefit from experiences and trips outside the classroom, both academically, socially and emotionally. We have already arranged one experience for our Year 4 pupils this term.

We always endeavour to keep the cost of these experience to a minimum and provide parents with as much notice as possible to pay the contributions. We will send a separate letter shortly about future trips after Autumn term.

School Expectations

REMINDER

White Hall Academy is a Nut-Free school, so please ensure all lunch box items and snacks are nut free. We do have pupils in our school with severe allergies.

Drinks

Children should bring a named bottle **with water** to school. These can be refilled during the school day. This is the best liquid to keep your child hydrated and enable them to learn effectively. Having juice brought into school attracts ants and results in time being lost when spillages need to be cleaned up by staff. If your child brings a packed lunch, they can bring a separate juice bottle or carton in their lunch box to take into the lunch hall.

Snacks

Children may bring their own healthy snack for break time, preferably fruit or vegetables. Cheese sticks, yogurt and fruit-based cereals bars are also acceptable.

Uniform

Children need to wear correct uniform to school each day. Please clearly label your child's uniform.

Our uniform consists of a:

White Hall Academy jumper or cardigan,

Black school trousers or shorts

Grey or Black skirt

White polo top

Plain black shoes

P.E. Uniform

School Jumper or cardigan (no branded jumpers or hoodies),

Black or grey jogging bottoms/sports trousers (no leggings as these can become see through)

Black PE shorts (no cycling shorts)

Plain white T-shirt

Sports Trainers

If you require any uniform items, the school has a great variety of second hand uniform in excellent condition. Please speak to Miss Watts or Mrs Eames.

Thank you for your support in sending your child to school in the correct uniform.

Year 4 PE Days

Indoor PE – Tuesday Outdoor PE – Thursday

We want to ensure all children develop positive relationships with the adults in their class, as we know this will support their learning.

To encourage this, adults will be focused on greeting children on the door and supporting them in their morning work during morning drop off. They will not be able to discuss queries at the start of the day. Short messages about collection arrangements can be called to the office or messaged via Dojo.

If you need to speak with the class teacher in more detail, please request an appointment during collection or message on Dojo.

