Diocese of Birmingham

ST LAURENCE CHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Year 4 News

January 2026

Issue 3

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back, and Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed a restful Christmas break and were able to spend some quality time with family. We're excited to begin the new year and continue working in partnership with you to ensure the very best for your children. Please remember to check the website regularly, as spellings and other important information will be updated there.

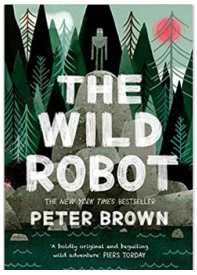
www.stlaurencechurchjuniorschool.co.uk/year-4/

Reading

All children will continue to take part in a daily whole-class reading session. Both the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed last term's lessons, where we explored a wide range of texts, expanded our vocabulary, and deepened our general knowledge. During these sessions, we focus not only on reading fluently but also on ensuring that children fully understand what is happening in the text. Their comprehension—not just their ability to decode words—is what we use to assess their reading.

It is also important that children continue to write in their reading records. We would like each child to write one quality comment in their diary every week. These comments can relate to any book they are reading, not just their school reading book. In addition, we ask that adults at home write in the record twice a week to show that reading is taking place at home. If your child is finding the text difficult or is reluctant to read, please speak to a member of the Year 4 team. As avid readers ourselves, we are passionate about helping every child reach their full potential as a reader.

Writing



Our writing work this half term will be based on ***The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown**, a beautifully written story about Roz, a robot who learns to survive and connect with the natural world on a remote island. We are excited to share this text with the children, as its themes of friendship, resilience, and belonging are sure to engage them throughout our English sessions. The children will retell a chapter in their own words, refine their use of inverted commas by writing a character conversation, and create an information text linked to an issue raised in the story—such as animal habitats, environmental change, or robotics—allowing them to strengthen both their narrative and non-fiction writing skills.

Maths

This term in Maths, we will be focusing on multiplication and division, length and perimeter, and fractions. Times tables are key to success in all areas of maths, so the children will be encouraged to recall facts quickly and confidently. By the end of Year 4, they are expected to know all their multiplication and division facts up to 12 × 12. **In June 2026, your child will take a statutory multiplication test to show how quickly they can recall these facts.** You can support your child at home by practising their times tables regularly. They also have access to Times Tables Rockstars, which is a fun and engaging way to strengthen their skills. To support learning further, we will alternate homework between Atom Maths and Times Tables Rockstars. Together, these approaches will help your child become a confident and fluent mathematician.

This website is exactly like the government test and is very good for practice.

https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check

curriculum

Our **Geography** unit this term is **Fantastic plants and where to find them.**

The children will begin the unit looking at how climate and location affects plant diversity, they will also study how chocolate is made and where the raw product comes from. They will also look at the international trade in cocoa beans and how the price we pay can be affected by harvest. We will also look at bamboo and explain why bamboo can solve the modern problems surrounding plastic disposal and hardwood cost and availability.

In **Science** the children will be looking at Animals Including Humans.

The focus for **French** will be learning language associated with describing people.

In **R.E.** we will be studying the main beliefs of Judaism and understanding the symbols that are important in this religion. This will include our visit to Singers Hill Synagogue.

In **PSHE** the children will talk about their hopes and dreams. They will discuss how it feels when dreams don't come true and how to cope with or overcome feelings of disappointment. The children talk about making new plans and setting new goals even if they have been disappointed. The class will talk about group work and overcoming challenges together.

P.E - Trainers are needed for outside and these can either be left in school or sent in on the day. As the weather continues to change we advise for dark tracksuits to be included in the kit. Correct indoor PE kit is a yellow t-shirt, blue shorts, which should also be loose fitting and black pumps.

Girls should remove tights so they need to have socks in their pump bag.

Earrings should be either removed at the start of the lesson or left at home on PE days.

4W – Swimming on Thursday afternoons.

(If you are able to assist with walking to the swimming baths, please contact Miss Williams)

4D – PE on Thursdays (Athletics and Cricket)

4H – PE on Fridays (Netball and Dance)

DIARY DATES

INSET Day:
Monday 5th January

Singers Hill Synagogue Trip:
Monday 19th January-4D
Tuesday 20th January-4H
Wednesday 21st January-4W

Internet Safety Homework:
Friday 6th February

Safer Internet Day:
Tuesday 10th February

Last day of term:
Friday 13th February

Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Year 4 Team if you have any questions.

We look forward to continuing to work with you.