



ST LAURENCE CHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 4 News

April 2026
Issue 5

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to Half Term 5. A huge thank you to all the parents who supported us last half term during the Lenten Project. The Year 4 Lenten Stalls and the cake sale were both great successes, and we truly appreciate your support and generosity. We are now moving into the first part of the Summer Term, and we are very excited about the activities we have planned. Our Pentecost Performance will take place on the 18th and 19th of May, and we will continue working on our times table facts in preparation for the Multiplication Times Table Check (MTC) at the beginning of June. Thank you for your continued support.

Remember to check out school news on our website: <http://www.stlaurencechurchjuniorschool.co.uk/year-4/>

English

Reading

In reading lessons this half term, we will continue developing the children's comprehension through a range of engaging texts. The children will practise and strengthen their VIPERS skills, focusing on vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising. These skills help pupils to understand texts more deeply and think carefully about what they read. Please ensure the children read at least 3 times a week at home and make a comment in their reading diary.

Writing

Our writing work this half term will be based on the book 'The Barnabus Project' by The Fan Brothers. We will be predicting what happens at different parts of this magical book, creating our own 'perfect pets' and discussing acceptance. We will also be using inverted commas for speech to write a conversation between the characters.



Maths

Our focus in Maths this term will be decimals, money and time. It would be very helpful if you could spend some time at home discussing time with your child and encouraging them to read both digital and analogue clocks. **At the beginning of June 2026, your child will take the statutory Multiplication Times Table Check (MTC)**, which assesses their rapid recall of multiplication facts. It is therefore very important that children practise their times tables regularly so they can recall them quickly and confidently. Your child has access to TTRS, which is an excellent resource to support the learning of multiplication facts. To help the children continue improving their fluency, we ask that Times Tables Rock Stars homework is completed weekly. **Children are expected to spend around 20–30 minutes on Times Tables Rock Stars each week. Ideally, this should include completing 3 Soundcheck games, 3 Studio games and around 15 minutes of Garage games.**

MTC PREP SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER GARAGE (times per week) 21
21 minutes a week is the magic number for achieving top MTC scores.

OCTOBER GARAGE (times per week) 21 AUTUMN OUMTC*

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER GARAGE (times per week) 21

JANUARY & FEBRUARY SOUNDCHECK (times per week) 3 GARAGE (times per week) 18 SPRING OUMTC*

MARCH SOUNDCHECK (times per week) 5 GARAGE (times per week) 16

APRIL SOUNDCHECK (times per week) 3 STUDIO (times per week) 3 GARAGE (times per week) 15

MAY SOUNDCHECK (times per week) 6 STUDIO (times per week) 15 SUMMER OUMTC*

JUNE SOUNDCHECK (times per week) 21

*The OUMTC is our own mini MTC and it is in semi test conditions. It will give you a good idea of how your students will perform on the real thing. Take part in three OUMTCs throughout the year to give you a baseline, benchmark and time to respond to the results.





curriculum

Our Geography unit this term is 'Where we live.' We will focus on understanding what member states of the United Kingdom are and their unique physical and human characteristics. We will explore the West Midlands region through maps, developing skills in reading OS Maps. Through the use of map skills, we will look at how land-use in the West Midlands has changed over time.



In **Science** the children will be looking at the topic: 'Electricity'. The children will identify common electrical appliances and learn about the different components of an electrical circuit, including cells, wires, bulbs and switches. They will investigate how circuits work and develop their scientific enquiry skills by making predictions, carrying out investigations and recording their observations.

The focus for **French** will be learning language associated with the home.

In **R.E.** we will be looking at Pentecost and how Christians show their belief about the Holy Spirit in worship and in the way they live. We will also be performing our Pentecost Play.

In **Design and Technology**, we will be adapting a biscuit recipe, baking them and creating packaging for a target audience.

Our **Jigsaw** unit this half term is called 'Relationships'. Children will learn how memories can help us stay connected to people, develop strategies for managing difficult emotions and supporting others through change. Children practise negotiating, compromising and repairing friendships, and reflect on what makes healthy relationships.

P.E - In our PE lessons, 4W and 4H will be learning how to play tennis and golf. 4D will be swimming. Trainers are needed for outside and these can either be left in school or sent in on the day. As the weather can be variable, 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.

PE days: (If your child is swimming, they will not have PE lessons as well)

4D – Swimming on Monday afternoons
4H – PE Friday afternoon
4W – PE Thursday afternoon

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

DIARY DATES

w/b 20th April

Stephen Lawrence Week in school

Monday 4th May

School closed– Bank holiday

Monday 11th May

Year 6 SATs begin

Year 4 Pentecost collective worship

Monday 18th May (2:30 pm)

Tuesday 19th May (9:05 am)

Friday 22nd May

Break up for half term

UPCOMING DATES:

Monday 1st June—Friday 12th June

Year 4 Multiplication Check

Thursday 11th June

Whole school photos

Friday 12th June

Year 4 trip to Aztec Adventure—

further details to follow

Monday 15th June

4W Class assembly

Friday 19th June

Summer Fair TBC

Friday 10th July

Y4 Fabulous Finish 2:40pm

Friday 17th July

Children break up from school