

# Year 4 Parent Handbook



# Welcome to the new school year!

## Introduction

Within this booklet we have put together an overview of the curriculum for your child this year and also some general information and reminders that we hope you will find useful. The booklets are specific to each year group so if you have more than one child please do read each booklet. Copies of these are also available on the school website and through the school office.

## Working Together

Your support is important to enable your child to do as well as they can and we value a close working relationship with parents and carers. We aim for children to leave our school having achieved their best, by developing their skills and talents through a range of learning activities and experiences. The school teaches a broad and balanced curriculum based on the National Curriculum, which is enriched through additional events and activities. We do expect children to fully participate in events and educational visits. If there is a concern or difficulty in your child participating, please speak to Mrs Finch in confidence.

Your child will be given homework activities which are detailed in this booklet. Please do support your child in completing these. It is important that homework is done so that your child can participate confidently during follow-up activities in school.

Your child's teacher will be the key point of contact for you and it is most helpful if you let the teacher know about any matters that may affect your child, so that we can support them in school. You may sometimes have questions or concerns and your child's teacher will be happy to discuss these with you. Brief updates, for example about end of day collection, can be easily exchanged at the classroom door as your child arrives for school. However, it is best to arrange a meeting if you wish to have a lengthier conversation.

Most matters will be appropriately discussed and resolved with the teacher. However, you may feel a matter is more appropriately discussed with a more senior member of staff, in which case you may wish to arrange a conversation with either Mrs Ross (Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs Finch (Headteacher). Any conversations or meetings can be arranged either directly with the class teacher or via the school office.

## Attendance

We value children's good attendance and children receive bronze, silver and gold certificates for 100% attendance each term. There is a strong link between children's good progress in school and their good attendance. We are a local authority school and governed by their policies. It is not permitted to take children out of school for a holiday during term time. Exceptions are made for families in the armed forces if a parent is due to go/returning from a tour of duty. If you do feel there is an exceptional reason for your child to be absent from school, the request should be made in writing at least two weeks prior to the event, marked clearly 'Request for Authorised Absence', and handed into the school office. Any requests will be considered and authorised at the Headteacher's discretion in accordance with the Local Authority and National guidelines.

# Welcome to Year 4

Key Stage Leader – Mr Hall

Ash Class – Mrs Hall

Beech Class – Mr Bowen

Hazel Class – Mrs Carter/Metcalf



## We are a Values School!

Shefford Lower is a values school. Below are the values for each month. Although we have two values to focus on each month, the other values are still used, modelled and lived every day in school.

Children are rewarded with a stamp on their individual values leaf when they have demonstrated one of the school's values. Special Milestone Leaves are awarded to the children in our Values assembly when they have achieved a certain numbers of stamps.

Sept 7 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	Unity	Belonging
Sep 28 <sup>th</sup> – Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Respect	Responsibility
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup> – Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	Tolerance	Friendship
Nov 16 <sup>th</sup> – Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Peace	Understanding
Jan 5 <sup>th</sup> – Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Excellence	Quality
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> – Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Love	Kindness
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	Courage	Determination
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup> – Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Trust	Honesty
Apr 13 <sup>st</sup> – Apr 30 <sup>th</sup>	Co-operation	Sharing
May 4 <sup>th</sup> – May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thoughtfulness	Patience
Jun 7 <sup>th</sup> – Jun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Simplicity	Freedom
Jun 28 <sup>th</sup> – Jul 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Happiness	Hope



## Some useful websites:

Shefford Lower School Website: <http://www.sheffordlowerschool.co.uk>

Purple Mash: <http://www.purplemash.com>

TT Rock stars: <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/24343>

## Clubs

As a school we offer a range of music, sport and subject based clubs which will be delivered by staff throughout the year. A clubs list will be sent out for parents to sign children up to a club. Please be aware that these may look different and will be postponed due to current Covid-19 rules in school.

Any club changes or updates will be passed to parents via letter or Parentmail. Children will be invited to attend at the beginning of each full term.

## English

The children will use a range of quality texts to plan, compose and edit a variety fiction and non fiction texts over the year.

As well as the spelling rules please practise the common exception words with the children to help them gain confidence with them.

### Word list – years 3 and 4

accident(ally)	early	knowledge	purpose
actual(ly)	earth	learn	quarter
address	eight/eighth	length	question
answer	enough	library	recent
appear	exercise	material	regular
arrive	experience	medicine	reign
believe	experiment	mention	remember
bicycle	extreme	minute	sentence
breath	famous	natural	separate
breathe	favourite	naughty	special
build	February	notice	straight
busy/business	forward(s)	occasion(ally)	strange
calendar	fruit	often	strength
caught	grammar	opposite	suppose
centre	group	ordinary	surprise
century	guard	particular	therefore
certain	guide	peculiar	though/although
circle	heard	perhaps	thought
complete	heart	popular	through
consider	height	position	various
continue	history	possess(ion)	weight
decide	imagine	possible	woman/women
describe	increase	potatoes	
different	important	pressure	
difficult	interest	probably	
disappear	island	promise	

## Glossary of terms

### **Homophone**

Two words are homophones if they have the same pronunciation.

### **Plural/Possessive apostrophe**

In plural possessive terms, place the apostrophe after the 's'. This will indicate to the reader that more than one person or thing owns the thing possessed.

### **Prefix**

A prefix is added at the beginning of a word in order to turn it into another word e.g. unload, unfair.

<b>Suffix</b>	A suffix an ending, something added to the end of one word to turn it into another word e.g. <u>sadness</u> , <u>joyful</u> .
<b>Syllable</b>	A syllable is a unit of pronunciation having one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants, forming the whole or a part of a word; for example, there are two syllables in <i>water</i> and three in <i>inferno</i> .
<b>Vowel</b>	a, e, i, o, u (and sometimes y) are vowels.

Please see the attached National Curriculum appendix.

## **Mathematics**

The national curriculum is designed to ensure all pupils become **fluent** in the fundamentals of mathematics, **solve problems** and **reason** mathematically.

**Fluency** in mathematics is related to children being able to learn and remember key mathematical facts e.g. the 7 times table.

**Problem Solving** is the ability to apply mathematics to a variety of problems e.g. word problems, investigations.

**Reasoning** is to use what is known about mathematics to tackle a problem and make connections between their learning e.g. *What will the 9<sup>th</sup> number in a sequence be? How do you know?*

Our School Calculation policy is available to view on the school website. We will also be offering drop in sessions where parents will be able to discuss, try out and see our calculation policy in action.

## **Glossary of terms**

<b>Addition</b>	The process of calculating the total of two or more numbers or amounts.
<b>Division</b>	Division is splitting into equal parts or groups.
<b>Fraction</b>	Part of a whole.
<b>Geometry</b>	The area of mathematics that deals with shapes and space.
<b>Measure</b>	To find a number that shows the size of something. Usually the number is in reference to some standard measurement, such as a metre or kilogram.
<b>Multiplication</b>	The basic idea of multiplication is repeated addition.  For example: $5 \times 3 = 5 + 5 + 5 = 15$
<b>Number</b>	A number is a count or measurement.
<b>Place Value</b>	The value of where the digit is in the number, such as units, tens, hundreds, etc.

**Subtraction** Taking one number away from another.

## **Computing**

The core of computing is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information, how digital systems work and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.



## **Glossary of key terms**

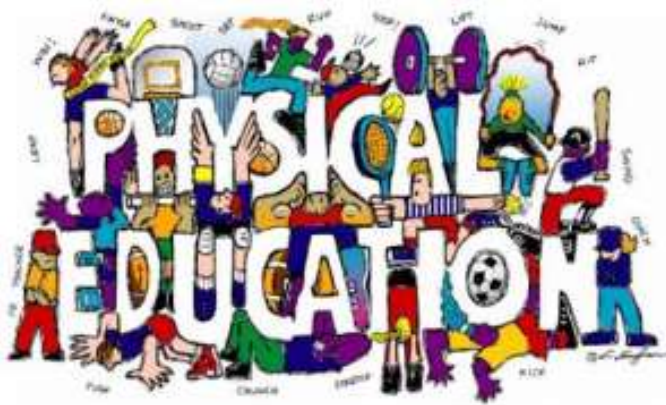
<b>Algorithm</b>	An unambiguous procedure or precise step-by-step guide to solve a problem or achieve a particular objective.
<b>Debug</b>	To detect and correct the errors in a computer program.
<b>Input</b>	Data provided to a computer system, such as via a keyboard, mouse, microphone, camera or physical sensors.
<b>Internet</b>	The global collection of computer networks and their connections, all using shared protocols (TCP/IP) to communicate.
<b>Output</b>	The information produced by a computer system for its user, typically on a screen, through speakers or on a printer, but possibly through the control of motors in physical systems.
<b>Program</b>	A stored set of instructions encoded in a language understood by the computer that does some form of computation, processing input and/or stored data to generate output.
<b>Sequence</b>	To place programming instructions in order, with each executed one after the other.
<b>Simulation</b>	Using a computer to model the state and behaviour of real-world (or imaginary) systems, including physical and social systems; an integral part of most computer games.
<b>Variables</b>	A way in which computer programs can store, retrieve or change simple data, such as a score, the time left, or the user's name.
<b>World Wide Web</b>	A service provided by computers connected to the internet (web servers), in which pages of hypertext (web pages) are transmitted to users; the pages typically include links to other web pages and may be generated by programs automatically.

**Online Safety:** Throughout all of the units children will be taught how to keep safe when using any computer, tablet or website. This will include the safe use of photographs, usernames and email. Social Media sites are not considered appropriate for children of lower school age.



## PE

PE will be on the following days:



**Ash Class** – Monday and Friday

**Beech Class** – Wednesday and Friday

**Hazel Class** – Monday and Wednesday

Throughout this year the children in year 4 will be taught games, gymnastics and dance in school, including outdoor PE and indoor work using a range of apparatus to develop skills.

They will have the opportunity to be taught PE by our specialist sports teacher, Mr Tilbury as well as their class teacher.

In Year 4 children may be invited to partake in inter/intra school competitions, including a range of festivals such as Sportshall Athletics, Swimming and Gymnastics Festivals arranged by the Redbourne Sports Partnership.

Children are selected to participate in sports festivals based upon their effort, learning behaviours and ability in that area of PE. The school will endeavour to provide an opportunity for as many children as possible to attend these events throughout their time at the school. These may look different or be postponed this year due to Covid-19 rules.

### Forest Schools

The children will once again be participating in Forest School this year where they will be able to access their learning and achieve and develop their confidence in a hands on and natural environment.



Please provide your children with the suitable clothing and footwear (a Parentmail will clarify kit lists).

**Beech** – Autumn Term - Wednesday

**Hazel** – Autumn Term- Monday

**Ash** – Autumn Term- Tuesday

### Music



In Year 4 this year the children will have an opportunity to work with our music specialist teacher, Mrs Rayner, and learn to play the ocarina. Recorder and Ukelele Clubs will be available for children in Year 4 as well as after school choir. (This has been postponed due to Covid-19 rules for Music at this time).

Children in Key Stage 2 will who are learning to play an instrument and/or attend the choir/recorder groups are invited to perform at evening concerts throughout the year as well as in our assemblies. They are also invited to perform for the residents of The Birches in the lead up to Christmas. Children in the choir are regularly asked to perform at different school events such as the PSA Coffee Mornings and the switching on of the Shefford Christmas Lights. These may look different or be postponed this year due to Covid-19 rules.

In class they will also have an opportunity to compose some music using ICT programming. The children in Year 4 will take on roles in the Christmas Concert and will have a busy second half of the Summer Term preparing for their leaver's Assembly. These may look different or be postponed this year due to Covid-19 rules.

### **General Information**

**School Book bags** can be bought from reception. Children are expected to bring a book bag to school rather than other types of bags as they will need to fit into their class tray. There are no lockers in year 4 anymore, therefore children should not have rucksacks as their school bags. Thank you for your support with this.

**Snacks:** In Year 4 the children, if they wish, may bring in their own snacks for morning playtime; these need to be raw or dried fruit and vegetables. We would also encourage your child to bring in their own named water bottle to ensure they get enough fluids during the school day.



**Reading:** We expect the children to read to an adult at home at least three times a week as part of their weekly homework. Children who read three times or more in a week will receive a house point for each entry in the reading record from home. This will be checked daily. Please discuss books with your child as well as listening to them read to help them improve their comprehension and deeper understanding of a text. A reading bookmark was has been sent home to support with types of questions to ask the children as they read. Reading books can be exchanged on a Thursday. Please ensure the reading records are in school every day. Thank you.

**Spellings:** Spellings are given weekly and spelling activity sheets should be kept in their red folder. The children should practise their list of spellings up to three times at home before a weekly dictation in school. The words will be based on a particular spelling objective or the common exception words.

The spelling pattern will be taught on a Monday and the homework file will be sent home on Monday. Children are to return the spelling folder on a Friday and they will have their dictation on Friday. The score they received and their new spellings will come out on a Monday.

**Learning Logs:** Children in Year 4 will be issued with a variety Learning Log activities every two weeks. Children will receive their learning log with a grid of choice to complete every other week on a Friday, with the work being handed in on a Tuesday. Homework could be presented in books, as models or using technology. Please be as creative as you like. Please see the letter and grid in the learning log books for more information.





**Frontier Centre Residential Trip:** In Year 4 the children will have an opportunity to attend a two night residential at The Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. While they are there the children will be able to experience a range of organised outdoor and adventurous activities led by an experienced team. These will include activities such as archery, raft building, rock climbing or abseiling. Further information will be available in the first half of the Autumn term.

We have been sending children on this visit for many years and this is always a highlight of their time at Shefford Lower School.

Preparations for this visit begin in the Autumn Term and if you have any concerns or difficulties regarding your child participating we would urge you to discuss this confidentially with Mrs Finch.

### Trips and Events

In Year 4 the children will also have the chance to visit St Alban's Cathedral where they will participate in a Roman Festival of different activities to experience their Invaders topic first hand. In the Spring Term, the children will visit the Queens Park Faith tour to experience different places of worship first hand to understand the faiths which our outlined in the statutory R.E curriculum. There will also be an Invaders Day, World War 2 Day and Extreme Earth Day throughout the year to give children a hands on experience in their learning of each topic.

**Transition to Middle School:** Shefford Lower School maintains close links with the local Middle Schools. Children in Year 4 have regular opportunities in the Summer Term to visit their next school and there are a number of transitional activities planned for the children to prepare them for their move the following September.

Further information will be available for parents later in the school year.



### Houses

We will continue to use House Points and value stamps as a reward system in school. Your child will be in either Earth, Wind, Air or Fire house and will be able to earn house points, merits (2 house points), Headteacher award (5 house points) for their amazing efforts during the year.

