Welcome to Year 4 2026-27

- Mr Schofield
- Mrs Mallinson
- Mr Hague
- Miss Drabble (Wed Only)
- Mrs Olekszy (1:1)
- Mrs Pazir (1:1)
- Miss Harrison (1:1)
- Miss Arthur (1:1)

Meet the Team

- **Mr Schofield - Nightingale**

gschofield@west-byfleet-junior.surrey.sch.uk

- **Mrs Mallinson & Miss Drabble (Wednesdays only) - Darwin**

debs.mallinson@west-byfleet-junior.surrey.sch.uk

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- **Mr Hague**

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Please can we ask that when an enquiry is classroom based, you contact the class-teacher directly rather than the office.

What to expect in Year 4:

At a glance...

- **English: Multi-genre study:** The Iron Man, The Mermaid of Zennor and Until I Met Dudley
- **Maths: Place value, addition and subtraction**
- **Science: Sound, electricity**
- **Geography: Scandinavia**
- **History: The Anglo-Saxons**
- **RE: What are the important times of the year for Jews?**
- **PSHE: New beginnings**
- **French: Ma Famille, Greetings**
- **Art: Drawing skills and collage**
- **PE: Taught Wednesdays and Fridays**
- **Music: Taught by Mr Broadbent**

Reading

- Reading is one of the most crucial things you can do to support your child's education.
- Research shows the greatest impact when children read with adults both in school and outside of school. Reading is shown not only to help children in English subjects, but also have a significant impact on vocabulary and **attainment in all other subjects.**
- We provide multiple opportunities for children to read in school, and therefore we ask that children always have a book in school with them. We will ensure they have time regularly to choose books from the class library or the school library.
- Children will be expected to quiz regularly (using Accelerated Reader) so need to ensure they are often choosing books that are on this system.
- Reading records should be filled out daily, these can be filled in by the pupil themselves, but adult comments are greatly valued alongside this. All reading record entries must be signed by an adult at home.

English

English lessons cover a range of areas:

- Grammar and sentence level skills
- Reading and comprehension skills
- Planning and spoken language activities
- Extended writing, various genres
- Opportunities for editing and improving writing

Maths

- Children will not be organised into sets for maths.
- **Every child will follow the same curriculum and lesson content.** Adaptations will be made to extend or support depending on the needs of the pupil in each class.
- Research suggests that grouping for maths has little to no positive impact on the progress and attainment of pupils.

Enquiry approach at West Byfleet Juniors

- **Topics, RE, and Science** all follow an enquiry approach.
- Pupils will be presented with an overarching question and then delivered content that they can use across the term to answer it. Children are given the tools and opportunity to answer both their own and questions posed to them.
- We endeavour to keep children curious and active in their education.
- **History:** Who were the Anglo Saxons?
- **Geography**: What is it like in Scandinavia?
- **RE:** What are important times for Jews?
- **Science:** What is sound and how do we hear it?

Specialist Teachers

- **Music and PE** continue to be taught by specialist teachers and coaches.
- During the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms, they will be doing PE on **Wednesday and Friday mornings (second session).**
- **Children will swim on a Wednesday afternoon (more info to follow).**
- Please ensure children arrive at school in full PE kit on these days.
- Music will be taught weekly by Mr Broadbent in the afternoons and during singing assemblies each week.

- Private music lessons continue to be offered alongside our music curriculum, please contact the office if your child is interested in signing up.

Homework

- Homework will be set on **Thursday** and is due back the following **Tuesday**.
- Homework club is available from this term – see the clubs list for more information.

- The expectation in Year 4 is that children will **read daily** and **complete times table rock star (TTRS)** activities, alongside **an hour of homework** each week.

- Homework will be a mix of curriculum skills, as well as life skills and speaking and listening tasks set within a grid where the children have more choice.
- We do expect children to be completing homework tasks, so please speak with your child's class teacher if they are having any problems with this.

Year 4 Homework Grid
Autumn Term 2026

Why use homework grids?	When will homework be given out and handed in?	What regular tasks must be completed each week in addition to the grid selection?	How should homework be presented?
The homework grids have been created to offer a variety of learning opportunities, differing in challenge, focus and length. The grids will guide you in choosing tasks, which might include written tasks, cooking, art, computing, maths and outdoor experiences. This flexible approach helps to engage all learners in this interesting and enjoyable format.	Homework grids will be given out termly. Homework books will be given out on Thursdays and must be handed in the following Tuesday. All work must be recorded in homework books. Parents/carers must date and sign when activities have been completed.	Read at least 3 times a week. Access TTRS for times table practise or NumBots to speed up number skills. Carry out quizzes for completed reading books on Accelerated Reader. If your child has access to Nessy, regular spelling and reading practise should be happening at home.	Presentation in homework books should reflect the same standards as in schoolbooks in the classroom; all work completed in your homework book should be your personal best.

Write a letter of Complaint	Interview an Adult	Fact File Research
Write a letter of complaint about the destruction caused in our class book The Varmints. The letter must be from a character's point of view. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**	Interview an adult about someone they admire or look up to. When recording this include the questions you asked with the answers they gave. This could be videoed/photographed and emailed to your teacher. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**	Research and create a fact file about a Scandinavian city. This can be presented as a non-chronological report, poster or a PowerPoint presentation (presentations emailed to your class teacher.) **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**
Design a Poster	**Collage: The Bayeux Tapestry**	**Follow a Traditional Scandinavian Recipe**
Design a persuasive poster encouraging people to move to a Scandinavian country. Include quality of life including education, safety and clean environment. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**	Take a small section of the Bayeux tapestry and create a collage using magazine cuttings and coloured paper. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**	With adult supervision follow a recipe. Take photographs, make a video or write up the recipe. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**

Electricity Hunt	Anglo Saxon Artefacts	Northern Lights Art
Draw a floor plan of your house (both upstairs and down) and list all the electrical points along with what is plugged into them. Then state the things you could do to save electricity in your home, linked to the electrical appliances in your household . **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**	Create your own Anglo-Saxon artefact. You can take inspiration from the Sutton-Hoo mask, intricate jewellery and weapons; for example, swords and shields. You can either simply sketch out your artefact or if you're feeling super creative make a 3D model. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**	Create a 3D hanging mobile, inspired by The Northern Lights. Think about the colours and the movement. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / NumBots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**
Storyboard of Beowulf	**Sutton Hoo Discovery News Report**	**Help the Environment** https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/01/conservation-for-kids/
Watch the three episodes of Beowulf on the BBC iPlayer at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zfbhpg8 Or read the summary using the same link as above. Then create a storyboard using pictures and captions summarising the story. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / Numbots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**	Create a news report about the incredible discoveries at Sutton-Hoo in 1939. Remember to include lots of factual information about the discoveries and the person who led the dig. It was a hugely significant discovery for British history and archaeology. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / Numbots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**	Make a difference by carrying out easy environmental activities. Follow the link for ideas. Explain how you have helped the environment. **Date:** Accelerated Reader This week I have quizzed ___times. TTRS / Numbots This week I have practised ___times. **Parent or Carer signature:**

School Routines:

- **The school day begins at 8:30** and gates are closed promptly at 8:45.
- Children can arrive anytime between 8:30 and 8:40. If they arrive before 8.40, they can choose to remain in the playground or go straight to their classrooms.
- The whistle will be blown at 8.40 and children will be expected to go straight to their classrooms, and begin their morning activities.
- Children not attending clubs will be ready for collection at 3:20 from West Byfleet Park.

- Please let the office know of any changes to pick up in plenty of time.

Developing Independence

- This year, we will be focusing on developing the children's independence so that their transition through the school is smooth.
- We will be ensuring that children attempt at all time to follow our behaviour expectations.
- It would be amazing if you could start developing more independence at home with your child.

Equipment

- Fully equipped pencil case – to be kept in school (please refer to the school's stationery letter for guidance).
- Glue Stick!
- Water Bottle
- Small rucksack
- Please label as much as you can
- No keyrings on school bags please

Online safety

- **Online safety accounts for a large number of safeguarding concerns at West Byfleet Juniors.**
- An increasing number of games have access to public chat functions that extends beyond their own circle of friends.
- A large number of children report bullying using social media apps. **This has become so common that many children don't even report it at all.**
  Age requirements for apps such as Instagram and TikTok are in place due to the high risks young people face using these online applications.
- Your children will regularly be taught about online safety in school but it is imperative that you are aware what they are accessing at home and that you ensure they accessing appropriate content only.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?

Under 13

- Roblox
- PopJam
- FaceTime

13+

- Twitter
- Facebook and Messenger
- Viber
- WeChat
- Monkey
- Yubo
- Dubsmash
- Instagram
- TikTok
- Skype
- Google Hangouts
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- Pinterest

16+

- WhatsApp
- Telegram Messenger
- Tumblr

17+

- Line
- Sarahah
- Tellonym

Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019

WEST BYFLEET JUNIOR SCHOOL

Online safety

- **Consider where children are using electronic devices in the home.**
- Pupils are safer when they access the internet in the presence of their parents. Children accessing online chats and applications in private spaces like their bedrooms are at a higher risk of harm.
- Consider whether children having access to a **family iPad**, laptop or phone might be more appropriate than having their own personal device; **a device that belongs solely to them will usually bring with it the expectation of privacy.** A child who knows the device they are using is shared with the family or a parent is more likely to behave sensibly online and be more careful with what content they will access using that device.

Multiplication Check

- The government mandate that all pupils sit a multiplication check towards the end of Year 4. This check takes place during the month of **June** and pupils be tested on their times tables **up to their twelve times table.**
- We support pupils in school by offering frequent opportunities to practise their times tables recall.
- This can be supported at home by encouraging children to **use times tables Rockstars (TTRS).**
- Not only do these online resources allow children to develop recall, but the interface is similar to that of the test itself; we find that many children struggle more with the *layout* of the test than the questions themselves.

School Uniform

- **Please refer to the uniform list in the parent zone on the school website.**
- Please remove all jewellery from children before the start of term. For the safety of our children, the wearing, necklaces and bracelets is strictly forbidden during the school day (except for medical purposes).
- Children can now wear small studded earrings but must remove then for P.E. Your child will need to take these out themselves.
- In the exception of the child being unable to remove their earrings, a plaster must be provided which they will need use to cover the earrings for P.E.
- Hair is to be neat and tidy at all times. No extreme haircuts, styles, dyes or hair gel should be worn.
- Hair below collar length must be tied back in a tidy style using plain blue hair bands, clips/Alice-bands.
- Ornate hair accessories and bows are not permitted. All hair should be clear of eye line.

P.E

- 2 x 1 hour slots: Wednesday and Friday mornings.
- Children to come to school in correct PE kit on these days.
- Must bring in spare socks and other trainers/school shoes in a plastic bag to change into after the lesson.
- During the Winter, children may get wet playing certain sports. We recommend spare underwear in case of this and a thin waterproof jacket/coat.

Main points:

- No cycling shorts or leggings
- Base layer allowed on top but jogging bottoms to be worn on bottom.

Swimming

- Swimming at West Byfleet will now only be taught in year 4.
- Swimming will be conducted over the 3 terms with each class attending separately within each term.
- Darwin Class will attend in the Autumn Term, Shakespeare in the Spring Term and Nightingale in the Summer term.
- The children will still need to attend school in P.E kit for swimming.
- The children will take part in P.E on Fridays too.

Additional Support

There are a great range of services available to your children should they need to access them.

Please always let teachers know of any change in circumstance or situation that may affect a pupil's mood or ability to perform in school.

Young Carers: Additional support and groups are offered to children who are young carers. This includes children with siblings and family members who are unwell or have a disability. Children may become short term carers when a parent suffers brief illness. Children can access these groups on a short term basis if the school is notified of a change in circumstance.

Key Dates

- **Swimming:**
  - Darwin Class – Autumn term
  - Shakespeare Class – Spring term
  - Nightingale class – Summer term.
- **At all other times PE will take place on a Wednesday and a Friday.**
- **Synagogue Trip:**
  - Monday 5th October, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm – Nightingale Class
  - Tuesday 6th October, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm – Darwin Class
  - Tuesday 13th October, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm – Shakespeare Class
- **Visit to Butser Farm:** Tuesday 17th November 2026 (volunteers needed)
- **Marchants Hill residential:** Tuesday 4th – Wednesday 5th May 2027
- **Year 4 Class Assemblies:** TBC
- **Parent Consultations:** Monday 9th November 4.00 – 7.00pm:
  Wednesday 11th November 3.40 – 6.00pm

Synagogue Trip

- **Linked to our topic:** Judaism - What are important times for Jewish people?
- **Activities:** During the visit, the children will have the opportunity to ask questions and meet Jewish people who can share their own experiences of important times in their lives, including Bat and Bar Mitzvahs. This will provide a valuable opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of Judaism and make meaningful connections with their classroom learning.
- **Monday 5 October** - Nightingale Class

  Tuesday 6 October - Darwin Class

  Tuesday 13 October - Shakespeare Class

  The children will travel to and from the synagogue using school minibuses.
- **Arrival Time:** 1:30pm to leave at 2:45pm

Butser Farm Trip

- **Linked to our topic:** Saxons and Vikings.
- **Activities:** A variety of activities from, jewellery making and chalk carving, to site tours of the round houses and giving wattling a go.
- **Arrival Time:** 8:00am to leave at 8:30am.
- Packed lunch is required (no fizzy drinks or sweets please).
- Children to wear mufti for the trip; but please wear appropriate clothing for the weather and activities (no crop tops or shorts).
- Please bring extra items of clothing in case it's cold or the children get wet or muddy during their activities.
- Please bring wellies/walking shoes in a spare bag to change in to.
- If anyone is willing to volunteer to come on the trip, please let the office know.

Thank you!

Are there any questions?