

Year 4 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

What are rivers and how are they used?



Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome to Year 4!

We have an exciting term ahead. Please find below an outline of the learning covered during the first term in Year 4.

The children have just started their new topic '**What are rivers and how are they used?**' We will be using the class reader; '**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**' by Roald Dahl throughout our topic.

Promoting British Values

Democracy:

Using the Bradford Beck Project, students will explore the importance of involving local communities in river management, promoting discussions about fair representation, and the right to have a say in decisions that affect their local environment.

Mutual Respect:

Students will learn about the different communities living along rivers, and the cultural significance rivers hold for various groups. This fosters respect, tolerance, and an appreciation for the diversity of life and human experiences.

Rule of Law: Rivers are governed by laws and regulations aimed at protecting their ecosystems and ensuring fair and sustainable use. Students will learn about the legal frameworks that govern river management, pollution control, and habitat preservation.

Individual Liberty: The study of rivers allows students to appreciate the freedom to enjoy and access natural resources. They can explore the recreational activities rivers offer, such as boating, fishing, and leisure, promoting discussions about personal freedoms, responsible use, and the importance of respecting the rights of others.

Community Values

The Community Values we will focus on this half term are Kindness and Gratitude. Through assemblies and in class, we will be helping pupils understand what these Values mean, and how we can all put them into practice.

Protected Characteristics and how they link with our learning

Age: Rivers impact individuals of all ages. Students can explore how rivers provide recreational opportunities for people of different age groups, fostering discussions about inclusivity, access, and the rights of children, adults, and the elderly to enjoy and benefit from rivers.

Disability: Students can explore accessible infrastructure, facilities, and activities that ensure individuals with disabilities can fully participate in river-related recreational and educational experiences.

Race and Ethnicity: Rivers are often associated with diverse cultural and ethnic communities. Students can learn about the cultural significance of rivers for different racial and ethnic groups, promoting understanding, appreciation, and respect for diverse cultural heritages and identities.

Religion and Belief:

Rivers hold spiritual and cultural significance for many religious and belief

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systems. Students can explore the role of rivers in religious ceremonies, rituals, and beliefs, fostering understanding, tolerance, and respect for diverse religious and belief systems



Literacy

During our Literacy and Language unit, 'Lost or Stolen' by Narinder Dhani we will explore stories where the characters face a dilemma. We will share dilemmas we have faced and use our experiences to create our own dilemma story. We will also explore information leaflets and create our own leaflet about Bradford Beck.

Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition – The Mysterious Bag

This half term, pupils will be taking part in our exciting Star Writer Competition, inspired by *The Mysterious Bag*. Children will explore a range of intriguing objects found inside a mysterious bag left outside our school playground and use their detective skills to piece together the clues and solve the mystery of how the bag has ended up at our school. They will plan and create their own piece of writing, choosing a genre that best suits their ideas. This competition aims to inspire creativity, imagination and curiosity, while encouraging pupils to develop their writing skills and produce high-quality work. We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful ideas our talented young writers come up with and celebrating their achievements at the end of the term.

Reading

This term our class reader 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is linked to our topic of States of Matter. We will practise our VIPERS



reading skills, beginning with retrieval, as we enjoy the classic Roald Dahl novel. We will also read many information texts about rivers, enhancing our knowledge and vocabulary for use in science and geography.

Geographers

As Geographers, we will be studying rivers, water stores and processes in the water cycle. We will describe the three courses of a river and name the physical features of them. Using maps, technology and atlases, we will name some major rivers of the world and their locations. We will describe different ways a river is used and explore some of the problems around rivers.

Using the Bradford Beck and River Ayre, we will describe human and physical features around our local river; identifying it on an OS map. We will explore the environmental quality of our river

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environment and make suggestions on how it could be improved.

Maths

This term we will begin White Rose Maths, exploring whole numbers with a focus on place value of numbers up to 100 000. We will compare and arrange them before moving on to rounding numbers to the nearest ten and hundred. We will also learn about factors and multiples, moving on to using the long multiplication.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

This school year, the children in Year 4 will complete the government assessment **Multiplication Tables Check**. The check will take place in June 2024. During the year, we will work hard to master all the multiplication tables and division facts, not only for the check, but also to support all our maths work.

Design Technologists

Studying pavilions, we will design a stable pavilion structure that is aesthetically pleasing and selecting materials to create a desired effect.

We will build frame structures designed to support weight, making a variety of free-standing frame structures of different shapes and sizes.

Scientists

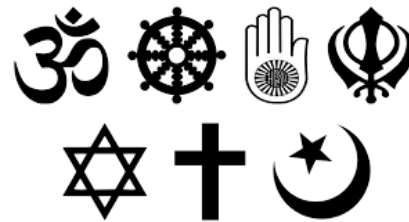
As scientists we will explore states of matter. We will compare materials and see if they are solids, liquids or gases. We will observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled. We will investigate the water cycle



and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Spiritual Thinkers

This half term, children will explore the various faiths and beliefs present in our country and community. They will learn about the practices, traditions, and values of different religious groups, fostering an understanding and respect for diversity.



Musicians

This year, we'll be working with Junior Jam in our music lessons. The sessions will focus on learning how to play the ukulele together as a group. Pupils will work with their classmates to perform fun and exciting pieces as part of a team.



In Year 4, we will be learning to play the **ukulele** using Junior Jam's unique and innovative coloured-dot notation method.

Pupils will build on their technical music skills while learning to play as a group.

Computing

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In computing we will apply our knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. We will explore the World Wide Web to learn about who owns content and what we can access, add, and create. Finally, we will evaluate the reliability of online content.

Linguists

As linguists, we will study French, listening attentively to spoken language. We will focus on descriptions of people from their hair and eye colour, then progressing to their feelings. We will show understanding by giving a spoken sentence to describe a friend and writing sentences accurately.

Health and Fitness

The children will continue to develop their fitness through hockey and tag rugby. We will improve our strength, stamina and sportsmanship in both areas. We will learn the skills and rules of each game, using equipment carefully developing skills in order to play competitive games.

PE will be on **Tuesday** and **Friday** each week. Children should come to school in their PE kit. Girls who wear a traditional long dress must make sure their PE kit is underneath. **No jewellery** is to be worn on PE days and stud earrings must be taped.

PSHE

This half term in PSHE, we are exploring the theme of making healthy choices. We will be learning about what it means to make healthy choices, why these choices are important, and how they can help us to stay happy, safe, and well.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

As we eagerly prepare for the new academic year, we extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all our students as they return to school. We understand the importance of fostering a supportive and nurturing environment that allows every child to flourish. As they step back into the classrooms, we are committed to providing a safe space where they can reconnect with friends, teachers, and their love for learning.

The return to school can evoke various emotions in our children, ranging from excitement to nervousness. We encourage open communication with both you and your child, as talking about their feelings can be instrumental in helping them cope with any worries they may have.

This half term, we will focus on resilience, helping children to develop the confidence and strategies they need to persevere, adapt to challenges, and bounce back positively when things feel difficult.

Reminders

Indoor pumps are to be worn inside the school building.

School uniforms should be worn on non PE days.

School uniform includes black school shoes, a red jumper or cardigan with

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white or red polo shirt and black or grey trousers, skirt or dress.

PE kit is navy blue polo shirt and jogging pants with a navy blue jumper or hooded top. Plain black trainers should be worn on PE days.

Water bottles should be brought each day, so children can remain hydrated.

Homework and **spellings** will be sent home every Friday and *due on Monday* morning.

Multiplication Tables Check

We would also like to encourage children to continue practising and strengthening their times tables at home. Regular support with multiplication facts will help build confidence and fluency in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check, which will take place in June.

Year 4's MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission in Year 4 is to learn, grow and support each other every day.

We strive to be curious learners, kind friends, and hardworking students.

Together, we aim to create a positive and inclusive classroom where everyone can succeed.

Educational Websites

Maths Shed:

<https://play.edshed.com/en-gb/number>

Maths Shed MTC simulator:

<https://play.edshed.com/en-gb/mtc>

BBC Supermovers:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/ks2-collection/zr4ky9q>

MTC Check:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

Hit the button:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Finally...

The school/home partnership plays an extremely important role in your child's learning journey. Some children take the time to do extra learning at home. Please let us know if your child has anything they have done that they wish to celebrate! Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 4 team, Miss Rehman or Mrs Kauser.

Forthcoming events

Year 4 South Asian Art Workshop - 23rd September

Year 4 Friendship Workshop - 17th September

INSET Day (school closed): Friday 2nd October

School closes:

Friday 23 October 2026

School opens:

Monday 2 November 2026