



Sutton Bonington
Primary School

Year 4 Newsletter

Spring Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you all had a fabulous Christmas holiday and that the children enjoyed their well-deserved break. We have been so impressed with how the children have returned to school, and they are already working hard to achieve their goals.

Staff in Year 4

The class will continue to be taught by Mrs Stevens (Mon–Wed) and Mrs Macklin (Thurs–Fri). We are fortunate to also have Mrs Hopkin, Mrs Smith and Miss Rabel in class supporting the children this term.

Topic

This term, our main topic will be *The Ancient Sumer*. The children will be learning about ancient civilisations, where they lived, and how they differed from the nomadic way of life. They will then study the Ancient Sumerians and consider how the inventions of this particular civilisation have impacted the modern world today.



In Geography, we will be studying rivers. In class, we will be learning about the world's great rivers, why rivers are important, and touching on the water cycle. To support the children's learning, we have booked a River Study trip to Coombe Park for Monday 23rd March. Further details will be sent out in the coming weeks.

In Science this term, we will be studying *Living Things and Their Environments*. This unit sees pupils revisit habitats and living things before learning how organisms depend on each other within a single ecosystem. They will explore food chains and be introduced to the concept of a food web. Pupils will begin their classification journey by revisiting vertebrates and their characteristics before moving on to invertebrates. Using their knowledge of animals, they will construct their own branching diagrams and classification keys. Pupils will then move on to classifying plants, including both flowering and non-flowering plants. Finally, pupils will focus on environments, including how they change through natural and human influences, and whether these changes are positive or negative.

Things to Remember

Children should bring a water bottle to school daily. Please ensure bottles are clearly named and sufficiently watertight and robust to survive the rigours of the classroom. Water only, please — no juice.

Children may bring a healthy snack for breaktime, such as fruit, a rice cake or dried fruit. Please do not send your child with anything containing nuts (including chocolate spread), crisps or chocolate.

We will provide all necessary stationery on the tables, so children should not bring personal pencil cases and should not bring toys from home unless this has been agreed with me.

PE Days

Year 4 will have PE on Tuesday afternoons with Mr Radford and on Fridays with Mrs Macklin. Please ensure children come to school wearing the correct PE kit.

Reading Books

Children should come to school with their school reading book each day. This will be a levelled or book-banded book. Children in Year 4 should aim to read for at least 15 minutes every day; however, if this is not always possible, we recommend at least three times per week. Books can usually be changed in the library as needed. We also have a range of high-quality books in the classroom for children to read in class.

Homework

The half-termly homework grid is available on the website, and a paper copy will be sent home by the end of the first week. Children are expected to complete three reads per week and practise their maths skills using the online learning platforms *Doodle Maths* and *Times Tables Rock Stars*. In class, we will be focusing on consolidating times table knowledge up to 12×12 this half term. In addition, there will be spelling rules to practise and a discussion activity linked to our topic. Please also visit our class page on the school website, which will be updated with useful links to support your child's learning at home.

Values

This half term, we will be focusing on showing **PRIDE**. We define this as:

- Recognising the feeling when we have tried our best and done a good job
- Knowing and celebrating our strengths and talents, and those of others
- Presenting ourselves and our work to the best possible standard
- Feeling part of our school, our community and our culture



We will explore this through assemblies, PSHE lessons and everyday aspects of school life. Please ask your child how they have shown pride at school and at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me in school.

Best wishes,

Mrs Stevens and Mrs Macklin