

# Welcome to Year 4



Coming together is a beginning,  
Staying together is progress,  
And working together is success.

Henry Ford



With this in mind here are a few of the different ways that you can help us, to help your child(ren) during their time in year 4.

## How to Help at Home

Please continue to encourage your child to be independent as much as possible. E.g. remembering to come to school in their PE kit, bringing in their reading books.

Having a 'growth mindset' is essential for children to progress. Model being resilient and tackling challenges in the context of learning.



### **5 Finger Test**

Take the 5 finger test to find out if a book is just right for you. Pick a page and start reading out loud.

Each time you come to a tricky word you don't know, put one finger up.

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**1 Finger** - Easy!

**2 Fingers** - Just right.

**3 Fingers** - A little bit hard but it could be fun to try.

**4 Fingers** - Difficult to read. (Try reading with parents or friends.)

**5 Fingers** - Too difficult for now - save it for next year.

**Reading** – to help develop a wealth of skills, including fluency and pace, explanation skills, imagination, understanding of words, writing skills and so much more you could:

- Promote reading as fun and not something they have to do. This can be done in lots of ways e.g. by reading to them or taking it in turns to read sentences or pages. Make sure they have a rich reading diet e.g. Comics, magazines, using the local library, online articles on Newsround for example, and e-books on Bug Club ([www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login))
- Engage with the 'Keep on Reading' scheme. This is another fantastic way to model reading for pleasure and discussing what has been read.
- Encourage them to read their school book. When choosing a book, please help them to use the 5-finger rule (shown left) to select an appropriate book and continue to listen to them read aloud.
- Remind children to apply their phonics and question unfamiliar word meaning.
- Remember to sign and record at least three comments in the reading record every week.

## Writing

- Continue to support your child with their handwriting. The overall aim is for children to have clear writing and consistently join letters. We would expect clear capital letters larger than lower case letters, writing on the line, clear ascenders and descenders, and flicks and curves to support joining.
- When children can join consistently, they will earn a 'pen licence' and will write in black pen in all work. Until then, they write in pencil. This is reviewed each year.
- Support children with editing their written work for punctuation and applying their knowledge of phonics and patterns with spelling. The complex speed sounds shown on the right detail the different spellings for the same sound.
- Helping your child learn the [statutory spellings](#) for years 3 & 4 would also be of great benefit to them.

Complex Speed Sounds

Consonant sounds											
f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng	
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk	
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		se	ci			
					c						
					ce						

  

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	ck	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh		y	tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							

  

Vowel sounds											
a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow			
	ea				a-e	y	i-e	o-e			
					ai	ea	ie	oa			
						e	i	o			
							y				

  

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure	
u-e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi				
ue			ore		er						
ew			aw								

## Maths

- Regularly practise times tables. This can be done in lots of ways including Times Table Rock Stars ([www.trockstars.com/login](http://www.trockstars.com/login)). At the end of the year, children will take part in a statutory Times Table Check, so regular practise now will support this.
- Use every day opportunities such as using money, telling the time, estimating, weighing and measuring.
- Children are encouraged to wear watches (apart from smart watches) to school.

## Dates and Other information

- Anglo-Saxon day at school, led by class teachers - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November
- Water Treatment trip & Rainforest day to be confirmed
- Keep on Reading – One book every half-term.
- Children to come to school in PE kits on Tuesday for the first half term. Any changes to this can be found on [Year 4 page](#)
- 10 spelling words to be learnt each week. They are set on our home learning page with the maths activity - set Monday and due in on Friday at the latest.
- Home learning activities are set Half termly and can be found on the [Year 4 home learning page](#).
- Reading records are handed in and returned every Friday.
- Please check the [Year 4 page](#) on the website sheet for updated information.

For further information, please see our school website ([www.wickfordprimary.uk](http://www.wickfordprimary.uk)).

This also has all letters including the weekly newsletter. If you have any questions throughout the year, please get in contact with us via the Year 4 email [Y4-20@wickford-pri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:Y4-20@wickford-pri.essex.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Botwright, Mrs Thiem, Miss Vanner & Mrs Thomson