SILVER BIRCH CLASS NEWS: TERM 1



Welcome to Year 4!
It has been great to get started in Year 4 and see the children settling into their new routines. We have already been busy with lots of interesting learning and the children have made a positive start to the year. There is lots to look forward to this term, including finding out about the Anglo-Saxons, learning more about our bodies, and getting stuck into our class reading of The Wild Robot. The children have already shown lots of curiosity and enthusiasm, and we are looking forward to seeing where their learning takes them.
We hope you enjoy finding out a little more about what we have been getting up to in this newsletter!

THE YEAR 4 TEAM

Class Teachers:
Miss Stevens
(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
Mrs Leggott
(Thursday, Friday)

Class Support:
Mrs Kemp

CONTACT US:

Our class email address is as follows:
silverbirches@harcourt.kent.sch.uk
Please use this to get in touch. We will aim to check the inbox at least once a day. If your message is urgent, please contact the school office.

Important Information

PE DAYS

PE Days are **Monday** and **Thursday**. Please make sure that your child has their PE kit in school every day.
PE kits should include a plain white t-shirt, dark shorts or leggings, and trainers. Also, tracksuit trousers and jumper for colder weather. Long hair should be tied back and ALL jewellery removed for PE lessons.

PENCIL CASES

We will provide all children with the pencil cases and stationery they need in school. Please ensure that your child does not bring their own pencil case or stationery from home. This will help us to keep things organised and make sure everyone has the equipment they need.

CLASS DOJO!

In Year 4 we work hard to earn class dojos! Keep an eye out for our special milestone dojo certificates which will show you how well your child has been working in class.

DRINKS AND SNACKS

As previously, please ensure that your child has a named bottle full of fresh water every day. We also recommend a healthy snack, such as fruit, for break time.

HOMEWORK

We are very grateful for the support you give at home. Homework will be given out every week on a **Friday** and should be returned for marking by **Wednesday.**
Weekly tasks will consist of:

- 3 English activities
- 2 maths activities
- a spelling activity
- reading 4+ times a week

The children will be tested on their spelling list on **Fridays.**

Please also encourage your child to:

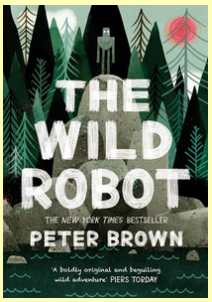
- Use Times Table Rockstars (TTRS) or another method to practise their Times Tables
- Read through their Knowledge Organisers for History, Geography, RE and Science.

TIMES TABLES!

Year 4 is an important year for times tables, as the children will take the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the summer term. We will be working hard throughout the year to make sure the children develop a strong knowledge of all their times tables and feel confident when completing the test.
Times tables will be practised daily, working through the tables from 2× to 12×. We will celebrate the children's progress along the way, so keep an eye out for your child bringing home a special times tables certificate as they move through each stage!

LEARNING

English:
We will be using The Wild Robot to inspire our reading and writing this term. The children will explore the story and characters while developing their reading skills. They will also use the text to inspire their own writing, including setting descriptions and diary entries.



Spelling:
We will continue using 'Spelling Shed'. Please login and use the app to practise spellings at home. We will send home a list of spellings to work on each Friday. The spelling test will take place on a Friday.

Maths:
This term's foci in maths will be:
· place value
· addition and subtraction

We will also be working on our times tables daily to prepare us for the MTC! This term we start with 2x and will each child will progress from there.

Science:
Our science topic this term is What Happens To The Food We Eat?
Within this topic we will be:
· Exploring teeth
· Learning about the digestive system
· Exploring food chains

P.E.:
We will be extneding our skills with in Tag Rugby and Basketball!

History:
This term we will be learning about the Anglo Saxons and exploring key questions such as
*Who were the Anglo-Saxons and why did they come to Britain?
*What skills did the Anglo Saxons have?
*What can we learn from sources of evidence?
*Where did the Anglo-Saxons live and why did they choose those places?
*What made Alfred the Great so great?
*Was life better in Roman or Anglo-Saxon Britain?
*How did Christianity come to Anglo-Saxon England?

Geography:
Geography will be taught again in term 2.

French:
Our French lessons this term will focus on our topic "On y va!" - recapping taught vocabulary and learning how to talk about getting to school and the weather,

Art:
We will study the work of Quentin Blake and practise our own illustrations in his signature style.

Computing
This term we will build on our digital literacy skills by exploring topics:
- Effective searching
- Unpacking software and hardware

PSHE
We will be using the Jigsaw scheme work focusing on 'Being me in My World'.

Religious Education:
Our key question is 'What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?"

Music
We will use sing up to learn 'This little light of mine' and 'Pink Panther'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 3rd September 2026	Children back to school (Years 1-6)
Monday 7th September 2026	EYFS children in half days
Wednesday 9th September 2026	EYFS children in full time
Thursday 10th September 2026	Kent Test Year 6 children
Tuesday 15th September 2026 3.15-3.45pm	Meet the Teacher in classrooms
Monday 28th September 2026 9am	Phonics workshop to parents
Friday 9th October 2026	Wear something yellow for Young Minds
Friday 9th October 2026	Flu immunisations
Tuesday 13th October 2026	School Photographer
Friday 16th October 2026	Re-start a heart - bring a teddy to school
Friday 16th October 2026 2.30pm	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 20th October 2026 3.30-6pm	Parent Consultations
Thursday 22nd October 2026 3.30-6.30pm	Parent Consultations
Friday 23rd October 2026	Last Day of Term

TERM DATES 2026-27

Term 1	
Tuesday 1st September 2026	Staff Development Day One
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	Staff Development Day Two
Thursday 3rd September 2026	First Day of Term – Year One to Six
Monday 7th September 2026	First Day of Term – Reception Class
Friday 23rd October 2026	Last Day of Term One

Term 2	
Monday 2nd November 2026	First Day of Term Two
Friday 18th December 2026	Last Day of Term Two

Term 3	
Monday 4th January 2027	First Day of Term Three
Thursday 11th February 2027	Last Day of Term Three
Friday 12th February 2027	Staff Development Day Three

Term 4	
Monday 22nd February 2027	First Day of Term Four
Friday 25th March 2027	Last Day of Term Four

Term 5	
Monday 12th April 2027	First Day of Term Five
Monday 3rd May 2027	School Closed – May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 27th May 2027	Last Day of Term
Friday 28th May 2027	Staff Development Day Four

Term 6	
Monday 7th June 2027	Staff Development Day Five
Tuesday 8th June 2027	First Day of Term Six
Wednesday 21st July 2027	Last Day of School Year

Statutory Assessment Dates for the 2026-27 Academic Year – No Unauthorised Absence Permitted.

Key Stage Two Assessments (SATS) – Monday 10th May to Thursday 13th May 2027
Year Four – Government Multiplication Check – Monday 7th June to Friday 18th June 2027
Year One and Two – Government Phonic Screen Check – Monday 14th June to Friday 18th June 2027



