Welcome to

'Getting To Know Year 4'

2023-24

Inspiring today's children for tomorrow's world

The Year 4 Team

The Year 4 Team

- **Hazel Class – Mr Ogden**
- **Hawthorn Class – Mr Griggs**
- **Teaching Assistants – Mr Ryan, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Causon (ELSA support)**
- **HLTAs – Mrs Poole and Mrs Rhodes**
- **Music – Mr Norman (or an alternative music specialist teacher) from April 2024 – July 2024**

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Our School Vision

The school's published mission statement is:

"Inspiring today's children for tomorrow's world"

This is supported by the school's core words and aims:

Inspire

We will inspire each other to do the best
We will support each other to set high goals
We will have open minds to new ideas and challenges in the world around us
We will inspire each other to become independent, self-motivated and confident in our own abilities

Pride

We will take pride in how we present ourselves and all our achievements
We are proud to belong to the school and the local community
We take pride from our active participation
We take pride in always doing the best we can

Our School Vision

Flourish

We have high expectations in all we do and how we do things
We will experience a broad, balanced curriculum with exciting experiences
We will learn how to live, work and play together and learn from each other
We will achieve the very best we can attaining personal milestones even if they are small steps

Respect

We value all, irrespective of individual differences
We will show good manners and courtesy to all and take responsibility for our actions
We will respect ourselves through trying our best to be healthy, active and confident
We recognise and promote fundamental British values of tolerance, fair play and being truthful

Safe

We provide a safe, friendly and supportive environment in which to thrive
We foster a nurturing environment in which positive relationships meet all pupils' needs
We will build happy and positive relationships where pupils feel secure to be wrong!
We will build a community where all feel safe and free from fear

Our Class Vision

Inspire:

We will **inspire** and support each other to always do our very best. We will be confident when facing new challenges and try hard to develop ways to work more independently.

Pride:

We will take **pride** in everything we do; we will always try our best when working in the classroom and when being an active member of our school and local community.

Flourish:

We will **flourish** by having high expectations and enthusiastically engaging in a broad range of learning experiences. We will develop our learning a step at a time and support others in doing the same both inside and outside the classroom.

Respect:

We will show **respect** by valuing everyone, including ourselves. We will be honest, polite and courteous and take responsibility for our actions in all aspects of life.

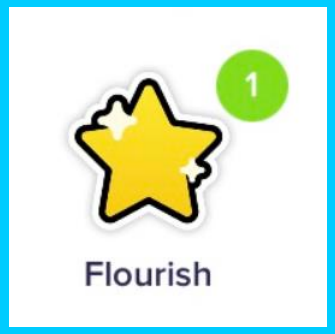
Safe:

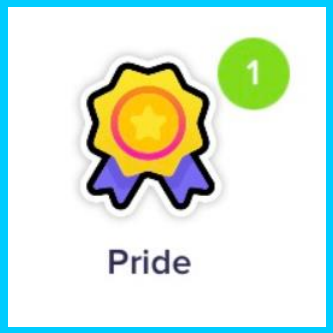
We will work together to stay **safe** and ensure that our school and local community feel happy, supported and free from fear. We will try our best to build happy, positive relationships where we can learn together without worry or concern.

Dojo Points

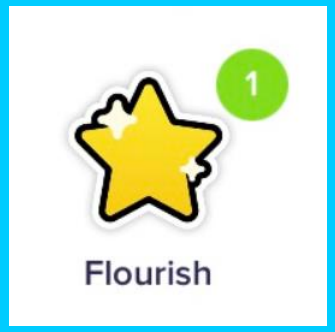
Dojo is an exciting way of earning rewards linked to our school values. This allows children to receive encouragement and praise for all their efforts to motivate and celebrate achievements.

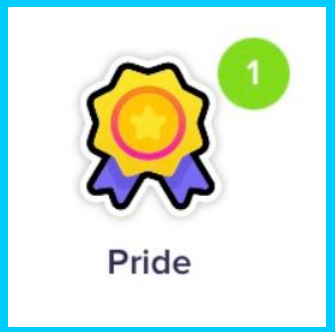
Our school drivers are:





Dojo Drivers





Each term, children can earn dojo points for demonstrating key skills linked to the school drivers.

- 25 Dojos they will receive a certificate.
- 50 Dojos can be spent on a gift from the 'Dojo treasure box.'
- 100 Dojos they will be rewarded with a book!

We will update the class story with news and pictures of our learning throughout the year and will also use this as our main port of communication to you for reminders, private messages and other key pieces of information.

Expectations and Daily Organisation

- More emphasis on independence and responsibility (personal organisation: pencil cases, home learning, behaviour etc.).
- Importance of water bottles (named and refilled at home daily).
- Break time snacks (healthy fruit/veg or similar).
- PE kits: Outdoor PE (Wednesday) Indoor PE (Thursday)
- Kit is as follows: White PE t-shirt, Navy blue shorts, White socks, Elburton hoodie (available from the PTA), Navy blue tracksuit in Winter, Sports trainers which provide full support (no fashion brands)
- During the summer term, we hope that the children will be able to swim; swimming kits will need to be in school on the appropriate day (more advice nearer the time).

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Key Dates

Hindu Speaker (Autumn 1)

Roman Day (Autumn 2)

Bodmin Jail Visit (Spring 2)

Geography Fieldwork Sherford (Summer 1)

Egyptian Day (Summer 2)

Mount Batten - Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th June 2024 (Summer 2)

Year 5 Residential – Deposit to be paid during Summer term 1.

THE CURRICULUM

National Curriculum

As geographers, we will learn about the Earth's structure. We will learn about the impact of volcanoes over time on the human and physical geography including a focus on Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii.

As historians, we will learn about the Roman invasion of Britain and its impact on the lives of the Celts. We will consider whether the Romans settling was a positive experience for all involved and explore the long-term legacy of the invasion.

As scientists, we will identify the different types of teeth in humans and animals and their functions. We will describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans and construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers and prey.

As religious enquirers, we will learn about what the 'Trinity' is and why it is important to Christians. We will describe how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity in worship (in baptism and prayers, for example) and in the way they live. We will also investigate what Hindus believe Brahman/God is like.

As linguists, we will learn the names of a variety of animals, parts of the body including the face and terms for big and small in French. We will also learn how to say which foods we like ensuring adjective agreement is correct. In addition, we will give opinions with reasons.

Year 4 – Autumn Term 2023

Geography: Volcanoes and Volcanoes- How does the Earth shake, rattle and roll?

History: The Romans- What happened when the Romans came to Britain?

In our English lessons, we will be using the text 'The Iron Man' to develop narrative writing techniques and character descriptions. In our poetry unit, we will be learning how to structure a poem and we will write a river-themed poem of our own. Next, we will learn about newspaper reports and will put ourselves back in time to write about the events that took place in Pompeii. In addition, we will be reading 'The Mousehole Cat' which is a story with a familiar setting and writing a diary entry from a character's perspective.

As mathematicians, we will be consolidating our understanding of place value which is crucial to all areas of maths. We will then move onto focussing on the four operations as well as measuring area.

National Curriculum

As musicians, we will identify musical structures and learn about the ways in which music brings us together. We will investigate these things whilst learning to play the glockenspiel and recorder.

In computing, we will learn about the importance of online relationships and e-safety; we will decide whether content is appropriate and safe to access and explore the potential consequences of accessing content from unknown sources. We will also explore how to search for information effectively and investigate how search engines work.

In PE, we will learn the principles of balance and how to develop dance motifs. We will learn how to persevere, challenge ourselves and perfect our performance through regular practice. In addition, we will learn to co-operate well with others whilst playing invasion games with a ball.

In design technology, we will identify what 'information design' is and understand its impact and effectiveness. We will evaluate the features of a range of existing posters, then develop our own electric poster design.

In PSHE, we will learn about becoming a class 'team', being a school citizen and our rights, responsibilities, rewards and consequences. During our 'Celebrating Difference' unit, we will explore judging by appearances, understanding influences and bullying and learn to problem-solve different situations.

Curriculum Drivers

Safe

We keep ourselves safe by:

Supporting each other in everything that we do.

Offering a happy smile and a friendly hand whenever we can.

Respect

We show respect by:

Valuing other people's thoughts, beliefs and opinions.

Being kind and polite to others.

Looking after each other, our school and the world around us.

Inspire

We inspire others and ourselves by:

Setting high expectations for ourselves and others in our work and play.

Building confidence and developing a 'can do' attitude. We remember that we are all AMAZING!

Pride

We take pride by:

Wearing our school uniform with a smile and being proud to be part of our school community.

Looking after ourselves, our belongings and our school environment.

Always trying our best.

Flourish

We show that we flourish by:

Knowing that we can learn from our mistakes.

By immersing ourselves in our wonderful learning experiences.

Putting in 100% effort to all that we do.

To view this, please visit the Year 4 class page on the school website.

Mathematics

Maths objectives are based on the National Curriculum

We follow the White Rose Scheme for maths where the children learn through a series of small steps which build to consolidate their understanding. These lessons are grouped into blocks ranging in length from 1-5 weeks depending on content.

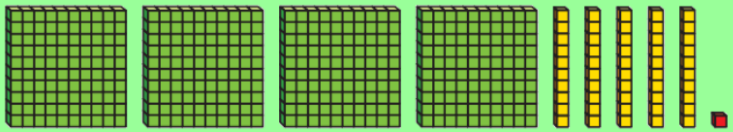
We have a 'confident to be wrong' approach to maths; it's important for children to understand that they can learn from their mistakes.

The children also complete daily morning maths tasks focussing on fluency – 2/3 times a week.

Times Tables Rock Stars is used in class and at home to develop quick recall of multiplication facts. Please encourage your child to access this at home and to practise their times tables three times a week (5-10 minutes at a time).

Children are expected to know all the times tables up to and including 12 x 12 by the time they leave Year 4.

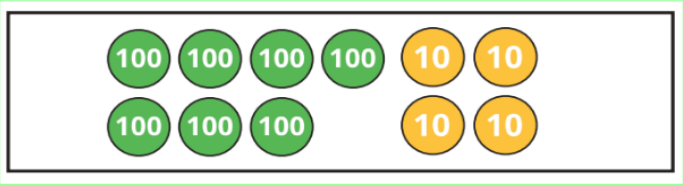
Use the base 10 equipment to help you complete the number sentence.



451 = 400 + ___ + ___

The children use manipulatives and representations to help visualise numbers and mathematical problems.

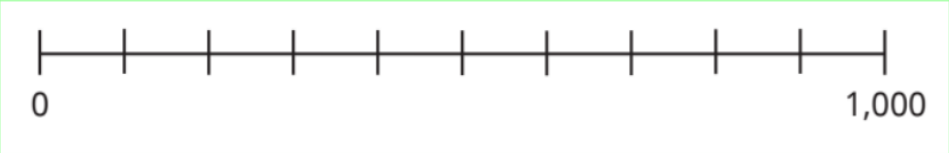
What number is represented here?



There are ____ hundreds, ____ tens and ____ ones.

The number is ____

How can we label 200 and 750 on this number line?



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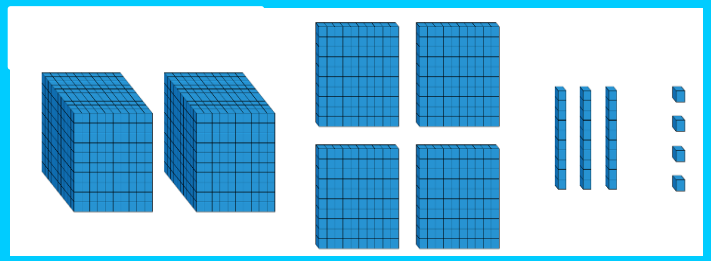
An example of independent learning in maths

Independent work:



1. Look at the representation. Record six different ways of partitioning this number.

2. Josh says, "My number has 4 thousands, 8 hundreds and 27 ones".
   What is Josh's number?

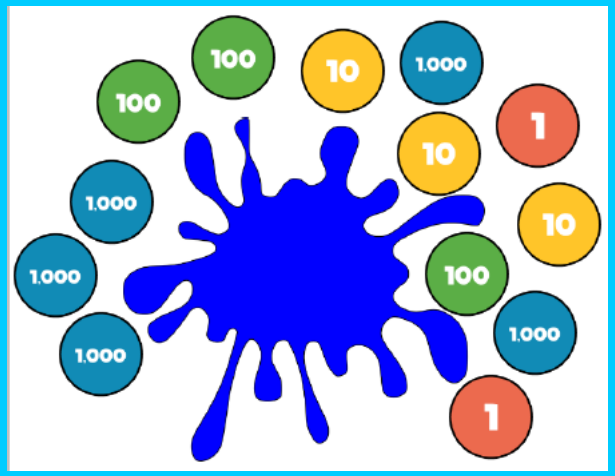
Problem Solving:

Some place value counters are hidden.

The total is six thousand, four hundred and thirty two.

Which place value counters could be hidden?

Think of at least three solutions.



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Reading

Children are expected to read at home with an adult for 10-15 minutes, three to five times a week.

We develop children's reading in various ways including whole class reading, paired and independent reading.

A variety of different genres are chosen to ensure that the children are exposed to a range of vocabulary, styles and purposes.

We also have a class reader which is read throughout the week. Our current class reader is The Iron Man, which also links to our current English unit.

Children's Reading Records need to be kept up to date and we shall be checking these on a Friday – please ensure the children read to you as well as read independently and get their reading signed by an adult – 3 times a week for a dojo point! If children struggle to find time to read at home, time can be found during the school day at appropriate times.

Reading

There is a big emphasis on reading again this year in order to raise the profile of reading throughout the school. We have several initiatives to enhance the children's love of reading and to enrich their vocabulary:

- Word of the Day
- Developing higher order reading skills (**V**ocabulary, **I**nference, **P**rediction, **E**xplanation, **R**etrieve and **S**ummarise) - **VIPERS**
- Class reader – Iron Man will be our class reader for the beginning of the autumn term.
- New banded books have been purchased especially for the new year.
- The library – Children will get to spend time perusing the books in our library filled with non-fiction and fiction books!

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is a computerised program that is designed to improve children's reading ability and to raise their reading age. We will continue to use this system where children can quiz and work their way through the book bands.

The Accelerated Reader Program works by identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is a selection of books that will not only match their ability but will also challenge them and develop their vocabulary.

Each child takes an online comprehension test in order to determine their ZPD – we complete this Star Reading Test at the beginning of each new term.

Accelerated Reader

Children will be directed to choose books from the library that fall within this range. When they have finished the book, they will take a short, electronic quiz that assesses their understanding.

It also enables teachers to closely monitor individual reading progress and ensure that children are selecting books that are challenging enough to meet their individual needs.

Children are encouraged to read books linked to the school's AR award system which monitors the challenge, quizzes as well as number of words children are reading. They need to read 5 books in the same book band before being invited to move up to the next decimal point band level. This is also dependant on their AR quizzes which they undertake.

Certificates are awarded for 15, 30, 45, 60 and 75 books read, quizzed and successfully understood.

Home Learning 2023-24

The children will receive one piece of Maths and one piece of English work on alternate weeks and occasionally, another relevant topic-related piece.

This will be given out on a Monday and expected to be back in class by the Friday of the same week – this will give them (as well as you) time to enjoy the weekend fully.

This is alongside their reading, Spelling Shed and Times Table Rock Stars work which they should be completing 3 times a week for 5 – 15 minutes at a time.

Please get your child into a routine of completing the home learning and bringing it back into school. It is so important they acquire this skill as they grow older.

RWInc Spelling

As a school, we are now completing spellings on a daily basis in KS2 following the Read, Write, Inc. Spelling program. This ensures continuity from the phonics learnt in KS1 and is structured so that children complete various activities which help them to learn age-related spelling rules.

We will introduce a new spelling rule every Monday in school and practise it throughout the week. These weekly spellings will be set on Spelling Shed for the children to practise at home (at least 3 times a week) and will be tested the following Friday.

Writing

Through the year, we will cover a range of genres. Currently, we are working on our fiction writing where children are developing and extending their sentences and including features such as similes, metaphors and repetition for effect.

There will be a focus on pride in all written work throughout all subjects.

Children will be involved in both self and peer assessment to help them improve their writing.

Throughout the year, children will have lots of opportunities to draft and edit longer pieces of writing.

In Year 4, we will be working hard to ensure that children are confident and accurate with punctuation and that they are consistently using cursive handwriting following the LetterJoin scheme.

E-Safety

This is an important issue for children and adults.

There are some documents to support E-Safety on our school website and on the Year 4 class page – these are aimed at both children and parents.

If you should have any concerns or feel we should be notified about any inappropriate online content, please don't hesitate to let us know.

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How to Help

- Continue to listen to your child read regularly (at least 3 times per week) and record this in their reading record with a comment – we check these on a weekly basis.
- Sign-up for the Reading Army if you'd like to – a letter should have already been sent out through the office.
- Be involved in home learning *(but don't do it for them!).*
- Help your child learn multiplication facts.
- Promote a positive attitude to learning - please don't share negative school experiences. Promote positivity!
- Insist on the basics in writing and in speech at all times.

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We hope that you have found this information useful.

Please contact us via Class Dojo or email should you need anything at all.

Thank you for your continued support.

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