

Welcome to
Year 4 at Hethersett VC Primary
School

September 2025



Dear Platypuses

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and I am sure that you are ready to start the new school year. Welcome to Year 4! I am looking forward to getting to know you and working together so that we have a very exciting and productive year. I hope that you enjoy the new challenges and approaches to learning that Year 4 has to offer. Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from Year 3 to Year 4, while recognising the expectations of being in a new year group. The Year 4 curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that children have had in Year 3.

The children will be enjoying the support of Mrs Chandler this year who previously worked with Year 5.

There will be a 'Meet the Teacher' open evening for parents to 'drop in' to visit your child's classroom Thursday 4th September between 3:15pm–5:15pm.

If you have any queries about anything in the letter or need more information at any point in the term, please don't hesitate to catch me after school or contact me via the Compass App.

Mr Lane – Platypus Class teacher

Swimming

Platypus class will swim on Wednesday afternoons for alternate half-terms. We will be swimming this half term. Start date to be confirmed. A message will be sent out via Compass.

PE

We will have PE with our coaches from Premier Education on a Monday afternoon. In the half-term your child does not swim, they will have an additional PE lesson with Mr Lane.

Reading

During the first week of term, all children will be given a reading record and a reading band book. This will be based on the reading band level the children were on at the end of Year 4. We will move children up book bands where necessary once we have heard them read. There are two types of books the children have at school.

- **Reading band books** – these can be handed back in at school and changed during the week as normal. Some children will read a Class Library book if they have finished the banded books.
- **Library/Class library books** – we will have the opportunity to visit the library as a class once a week. This is an opportunity for the children to get a new book from the library if they need one. While children are waiting for a class library session, they can utilise our fantastic class library bookshelf. **Please ensure that children read with an adult at least 3 times per week (with adults signing/commenting please).**

Three reads = 1 HP, Four to six reads = 2HP, Seven reads = 3HP
Records will be checked on Mondays and house points given.

Homework, Spelling and TTRS

Year 4 children will have Times Tables Rockstars to complete so they can focus on being ready for their 'Multiplication tables check' at the end of the year.

Spellings will be following a similar approach to the system used in Year 3. Words and test dates will be sent home shortly.

Times Table Rockstars (TTRS) – children have home access to TTRS in which they can brush up or learn their times tables. We will also be dedicating some time in class towards this. The children's logins will be stuck in their Reading Records. Please see below the house point tariff for TTRS:

Logging into play three times a week = 1 HP

Logging into play between four to six times a week = 2 HPs

Logging into play seven times a week = 3 HPs

There are several different modes to play. 'Jamming' allows children to choose which times tables they want to practise. 'Garage' will use an algorithm to bring in new times table as and when the children are ready and build towards completing their 12 x 12 heatmap. 'Studio' will test children on their 1-12 times tables and enable them to get a 'studio score' which places them on the school leader board where they can compete against peers and staff! 'Soundcheck' mimics the Multiplication Tables Check where the children answer 25 questions and have six seconds per question. Please see the following link for a parents and carer guide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZxZbRVvbYM>

Autumn Term Curriculum

Maths – Place value and methods of calculation. Times tables will be the focus this year in readiness for the national Multiplication tables check. The aim is for all children to have thorough knowledge of their times tables and the associated division facts ($6 \times 2 = 12$ and $12 \div 2 = 6$) up to the x12 tables by Easter

English – We begin our writing this year with a fantasy unit inspired by “Gorilla” from Anthony Browne

Science – ‘States of Matter’ and ‘Electricity’ involving practical experiments and written work.

Religion & Worldviews– We will be considering Creation and Fall, exploring what Christians and Muslims learn from their respective creation stories.

Art – We will be using our drawing skills to create plans.

PSHE – We continue the Paths curriculum from Year 3.

French – We begin with the unit ‘I am learning French’.

Computing – A unit on Photo editing.

Music – Will be taught on a Thursday afternoon by a visiting teacher from the Norfolk Music Service. All children will have the exciting opportunity to learn the viola this year in these lessons on a Thursday afternoon. We start with basic skills such as holding the instrument and the tones from each string. By the end of the year, children will be playing full pieces of music such as Ode To Joy by Beethoven.

Geography will be taught in the Spring term and History in the Summer Term.