

Helping your child in Year 4

Autumn Term 2026

Together we care, together we achieve.



September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope this booklet finds you safe and well and that your children are settling well into Year 4 and their new classes. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation regarding pick up and drop-offs and for continuing to support us in ensuring our school environment is safe for everybody. Please do not hesitate to email your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

English

Writing

This term we will delve into two high-quality texts: 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman, and 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit to complement our work on volcanoes. These will be used to inspire the children's writing.

Reading

Reading is heard individually by your child's class teacher or a member of support staff. The children are responsible for changing their own books as needed.

In order to promote regular individual reading, Year 4 are asking every child to read for at least ten minutes a day at home, preferably aloud with an adult. We would ask parents to ensure that an entry is made in their reading record book each time their child reads. Each time a child reads to an adult at home they will move around our, 'Reading Star', to collect various prizes.

Please ensure that reading logs are in school every day so that they can be checked and completed by the class teacher or support staff. Each time we hear your child read, we will record this in green pen, so if you could use a different colour pen that would really help us out!

In addition to one-to-one reading, reading skills are taught in whole-class sessions to develop children's understanding of what they read and broaden their vocabulary.

Maths

This term will focus on the basics of number and place value which provide children with an important basis for the calculation and measurement work we will also cover. You can help your child by giving them opportunities to add, subtract, multiply and divide (using the multiplication facts they are learning). Opportunities for everyday maths such as counting change, telling the time, preparing shopping lists (quantities and budgeting), adding numbers on car number plates, card games and helping in weighing and measuring when cooking or baking perhaps, are all great for helping children to see the connections between maths in the classroom and real life.

Geography

This term, as part of our geography learning, children will explore why some people risk living near a volcano. This enquiry encourages and supports pupils to understand some of the key physical processes that shape the Earth, and to recognise and evaluate the interaction of people with these physical processes. All landscapes and environments offer opportunities, constraints and, sometimes, risks and hazards to the people who coexist with them. Pupils will appreciate how environments may change over time and how this might bring advantages and challenges to the people who are interconnected with them. Wherever possible, we will make cross-curricular links.

To supplement our History and Geography learning, we will be taking a day trip down to Cuckmere Haven. Porpoises will be going on Monday, September 21st, Dolphins on Tuesday, September 22nd and Sea Lions on Wednesday, September 23rd.

Homework

As a school, we have decided to prioritise the following activities for homework:

- **Reading:** Reading for pleasure for a minimum of 10 minutes each day, preferably with an adult. Regular use of Bug Club is also encouraged and helps to support comprehension.
- **TT Rockstars:** Little and often works best here; daily for 5-10 mins will support retention of number facts more effectively than an hour a week. We have a national times table check in June.
- **Doodle Maths:** Again, little and often.

We recognise that a lot of our homework is online, and don't want to add greatly to your child's screen time, especially close to bedtime. If you would prefer paper copies of the times table booklets, please let your child's class teacher know and we'd be happy to help!

P.E.

P.E. lessons are on **Monday**. **Please could children come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE day.**

Cradle Hill PE kit is: a white t-shirt (this **does not** need to have the school logo on it), blue shorts/jogging bottoms and trainers.

Please also ensure that jewellery is not worn and long hair is tied back as these can lead to accidents in P.E. If ears have been newly pierced and stud earrings need to be worn, they will be covered with micro-pore tape in line with safety guidelines.

Children are encouraged to bring in a named water bottle to drink from throughout the day. This will be filled with water only.

Thank you for the help that is given so willingly in school. If you are able to spare us some time to support teaching and learning in Year 4, please come and see us.

If you ever need to contact us, feel free to email:

Porpoises - (Please ensure both teachers are included in any communication):

sarahe@cradlehill.e-sussex.sch.uk

leesas@cradlehill.e-sussex.sch.uk

Dolphins -

malachi.j@cradlehill.e-sussex.sch.uk

Sea Lions -

alinai@cradlehill.e-sussex.sch.uk

leesas@cradlehill.e-sussex.sch.uk

Thank you,

Year 4 Class Teachers

- ☐  **A Spoonful of Spying**
Sarah Todd Taylor
- ☐  **A Street Through Time**
DK & Steve Noon
- ☐  **Ancestry**
Hannah Salyer
- ☐  **Anisha Accidental Detective**
Serena Patel & Emma McCann
- ☐  **Brand New Boy**
David Almond & Marta Altés
- ☐  **Bunny vs Monkey**
Jamie Smart
- ☐  **Call Me Lion**
Camilla Chester
- ☐  **Earth is Big**
Steve Tomecek & Marcos Farina
- ☐  **Fairy vs Wizard**
Jenny McLachlan
- ☐  **Finding Her Feet**
Eve Ainsworth & Luna Valentine
- ☐  **Football's Greatest Moments**
Tom Palmer

- ☐  **Grimwood**
Nadia Shireen
- ☐  **How Do Meerkats Order Pizza?**
Brooke Barker
- ☐  **How to Train Your Dragon**
Cressida Cowell
- ☐  **I Am the Seed That Grew the Tree**
Fiona Waters & Frann Preston-Gannon
- ☐  **I Talk Like a River**
Jordan Scott & Sydney Smith
- ☐  **Interdimensional Explorers**
Lorraine Gregory & Jo Lindley
- ☐  **Keisha Jones Takes on the World**
Natalie Denny & Chante Timothy
- ☐  **Luna and the Treasure of Taloc**
Joe Todd Stanton
- ☐  **Matilda**
Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake
- ☐  **Mr Wolf's Class**
Aron Nels Steinke
- ☐  **Murray and Bun: Murray the Viking**
Adam Stower

- ☐  **My Family and Other Romans**
Marie Basting
- ☐  **Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City**
Rob Biddulph
- ☐  **Planet Stan**
Elaine Wickson & Chris Judge
- ☐  **Shackleton's Journey**
William Grill
- ☐  **Shadow Fox**
Carlie Soroslak
- ☐  **Sky**
Holly Webb
- ☐  **Solve Your Own Mystery: The Monster Maker**
Gareth P. Jones & Louise Forshaw
- ☐  **Song of the Dolphin Boy**
Elizabeth Laird & Peter Bailey
- ☐  **Stitch Head**
Guy Bass & Pete Williamson
- ☐  **Test Trouble**
Serena Patel & Louise Forshaw
- ☐  **The Barnabus Project**
The Fan Brothers
- ☐  **The Boy at the Back of the Class**
Onjali Q. Rauf & Pippa Curmick
- ☐  **The Brilliant World of Tom Gates**
Liz Pichon
- ☐  **The Girl Who Stole an Elephant**
Nizrana Farook
- ☐  **The Glorious Race of Magical Beasts**
Alex Bell & Tim McDonagh
- ☐  **The Great Chocoplot**
Chris Callaghan
- ☐  **The Highland Falcon Thief**
M. G. Leonard, Sam Sedgman & Elisa Paganelli
- ☐  **The Land of Roar**
Jenny McLachlan & Ben Mantle
- ☐  **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**
C. S. Lewis & Pauline Baynes
- ☐  **The Night We Got Stuck in a Story**
Ben Miller
- ☐  **The Queen's Nose**
Dick King Smith
- ☐  **The Secret Wild**
Alex Evelyn
- ☐  **The Wonder Brothers**
Frank Cottrell Boyce & Steven Lenton
- ☐  **Welcome to Wild Town**
AF Harrold, Dom Conlon & Korky Paul
- ☐  **What it was Like to be a Viking**
David Long & Stefano Tambellini
- ☐  **When the Mountains Roared**
Jess Butterworth
- ☐  **Women Who Led the Way**
Mick Manning & Brita Granstrom
- ☐  **You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum**
Andy Stanton

