



# Burford School & Nursery

*'Enjoy, Achieve, Succeed Together'*

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Dear Parents & Carers,

We really enjoyed meeting our new classes and we are looking forward to welcoming your children into Year 4 in September! Year 4 is another busy and exciting year where children learn about a variety of topics as well as continuing to become responsible, independent and self-motivated learners. Mrs Brannan will teach Willow class and Mrs Pease will teach Juniper class.

## **Where do children need to go to in the mornings for Year 4?**

To enter the Year 4 classrooms, children come to the bottom of the slope (by the wooden hexagon). Here they will be greeted by a teaching assistant. The children then make their way up to the Key Stage 2 cloakroom and the Year 4 classrooms. Parents remain at the bottom of the slope. Children should arrive promptly in the morning so that they have time to put their belongings in their locker and be seated in the classroom ready for soft-start activities and the register. At the end of the day, the classes are brought to the bottom of the slope by the teachers. The children will then be handed over to their adults.

## **What stationery will my child need?**

One exciting change for our academic year 2025-2026 is that the school will now be providing children with essential equipment for use in class. Every child will be provided with a personal pencil case which will include a pencil, writing pen, short ruler, whiteboard pen, glue stick and eraser. Classes will have pencil sharpeners which will be kept in the classrooms, as will class scissor sets.

This means that children will not be required to take pencil cases into school. This change takes place to encourage children to take responsibility for their belongings in school, supports the children's wellbeing in reducing the amount of property that the children are required to bring into school and should help keep the school tidy. Bags brought in only need to contain the following items:

- a reading book and reading journal
- a water bottle
- a waterproof coat (if appropriate for the season)
- a healthy snack
- a learning journal (Year 6 only, provided by the school)

The children's lunch should be in a separate bag to place on the lunch trolleys. PE kits should be kept in a separate PE bag. Fidget tools should only be brought in by the children who have been approved to use in class to meet need. Children should not be bringing in toys, teddy bears or other items like personal diaries or felt pen kits or similar.

## **What else will my child need?**

Please ensure that your child also has:

- A hat for hot or cold weather
- A Burford School PE kit and tracksuit.
- A plastic folder in which to keep homework sheets/letters/reading books etc – please see below for an example. In addition, we would appreciate a box of tissues for the classroom.



Please name all items as we can then return them to the correct child instead of to lost property.

In Year 4, the children each have their own locker. The lockers do not lock, but they close and are used as a storage area for each child's coat, lunchbox and bag. Please note that the lockers are not very big, so a small to medium sized rucksack and a small coat would be best. Locker numbers will be allocated in September.

### What can we do over the summer holidays to support our child's learning?

- Visit the library and take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. Read and listen to a variety of books – fiction and non-fiction. Children could also complete a book review about their favourite book that they have read in the holidays.
- Keep a diary/ scrapbook/send a postcard to Year 4 telling us about places visited. Children could also start to write their own book to bring in and share with the class.
- Visit places of interest to increase your child's general knowledge. If you are near York over the holidays, then a trip to the Jorvik Museum would be a great introduction to the Vikings! Sutton Hoo in Suffolk houses a large array of important archaeological finds linked to the Anglo Saxons. Also, Lindisfarne, The Dock Museum in Barrow-in-Furness and the British Museum in London. The Oxford Museums (inc. the Story Museum) are also good places to visit.
- Continue to build up automaticity and fluency for Maths. **Times tables - children entering Year 4 should be secure in all of the 2,3,4,5, 6, 8 and 10 times tables and the related division facts.** If they already know these, then practise the 7,9,11 and 12 times tables. We cannot stress how important it is that the pupils know their times tables as it impacts on so many areas of the maths curriculum in Year 4 – including multiplying 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit, division and fractions. Continue to practise on Times Tables Rockstars, and use Hit the Button for Times Tables, Doubling/Halving and Number Bonds (to 100 and 1000). <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
- Practise the calculation methods for all 4 operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- You could also visit the Nrich website which has many Maths activities and puzzles for children. <https://nrich.maths.org/primary> This year, they have a Summer Challenge every day and these can be found at: <https://nrich.maths.org/primary-summer2023>
- Practise spelling using the games on Spelling Shed. Also, practise the Common Exception Words for Year 3 & 4.
- Enjoy the summer! <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/50-things-to-do-before-youre-11--activity-list>

We hope that you have a sunny summer break with some time to relax and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Brannan and Mrs Pease