

Welcome to  
Lower School

Meet the  
teacher  
evening

# The Lower School staff are:

## Teachers:

- Mrs Womack (Anning)
- Mrs Young (Goodall)
- Mrs Drew (Attenborough M-W)
- Mrs Culpin (Attenborough Th-F)
- Mr Smith (Year 4 Maths teacher)



## Teaching Assistants:

- Mrs Young
- Mrs Hunter
- Miss Newell
- Miss Welbelove
- Miss Phillips
- Mrs G



# The Curriculum for Lower School

## Core subjects:-

- English
- Maths
- Science
- RE



# English and Maths

- Children are taught in their classes for English and in their year group for Maths.
- In English we teach and test spellings – more on this later.
- We have regular sessions of grammar, reading and handwriting.
- We ask the children to complete unaided writing tasks to assess their progress.
- In Maths we develop the children's arithmetic and problem solving skills. As much as possible, we try to get the children to use and apply maths to real life situations.



# Times tables & MTC

- We are buying a new scheme that works on building facts, rather than just learning a specific times table at a time.
- MTC – statutory test for Year 4 – w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

$2 \times 2 = 4$									
$3 \times 2 = 6$	$3 \times 3 = 9$								
$4 \times 2 = 8$	$4 \times 3 = 12$	$4 \times 4 = 16$							
$5 \times 2 = 10$	$5 \times 3 = 15$	$5 \times 4 = 20$	$5 \times 5 = 25$						
$6 \times 2 = 12$	$6 \times 3 = 18$	$6 \times 4 = 24$	$6 \times 5 = 30$	$6 \times 6 = 36$					
$7 \times 2 = 14$	$7 \times 3 = 21$	$7 \times 4 = 28$	$7 \times 5 = 35$	$7 \times 6 = 42$	$7 \times 7 = 49$				
$8 \times 2 = 16$	$8 \times 3 = 24$	$8 \times 4 = 32$	$8 \times 5 = 40$	$8 \times 6 = 48$	$8 \times 7 = 56$	$8 \times 8 = 64$			
$9 \times 2 = 18$	$9 \times 3 = 27$	$9 \times 4 = 36$	$9 \times 5 = 45$	$9 \times 6 = 54$	$9 \times 7 = 63$	$9 \times 8 = 72$	$9 \times 9 = 81$		

Y3  
21 facts

Y4  
15 facts



Mathletics

# General tips to support reading

- o **Once is never enough!** - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their school reading scheme book. Re-reading helps children read more quickly and accurately.
- o **Dig deeper into the story** - Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think he did that?"
- o **Take control of the television** - It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and computer games. Encourage reading as a distraction free activity.
- o **Be patient** - When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind to child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.
- o **I read to you, you read to me** - Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.
- o **One more time with feeling** - When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often kids are so busy figuring out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.

# General tips to support reading

- o Encourage independent reading, but remember children will still love being read to! (Who doesn't?)
- o Older children who can 'read' still need encouragement at home to enjoy reading. Show an interest in the books they bring home and try the website [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk) to find information on different authors and download extracts of books to try.
- o Encourage your child to try different authors and types of books.
- o If they don't like the book they are reading, encourage them to change it. We don't read a book as an adult that we aren't interested in! Making an informed choice is also an important part of reading for pleasure.
- o Encourage your child to read to younger brothers and sisters to make them feel like the 'expert.'
- o Encourage your child to keep a record of the books they have read, perhaps giving each book a star rating.
- o Don't worry if your child reads newspapers, magazines, comics and the internet. This will support their reading alongside reading books. Also encourage children to read poetry as it will support the development of language and vocabulary.
- o Try to support you child with comprehending what they are reading. Ask questions which will deepen their understanding of a text.

# Planners

Children are expected to read at home at least three times a week.

The image shows a purple spiral-bound planner. On the left side, there is a calendar with days of the week listed vertically: Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th, and Friday 13th. The right side of the planner is a reading log with four numbered sections (1, 2, 3, 4) for recording reading activities. Each section includes fields for 'Book & Page', 'Comment', 'Date', and 'Corer's initials'. Below these sections is a 'Number Fitness Activity' section with fields for 'Activity', 'Corer's initials', 'Number of times played', and 'Score on words above'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Corer's Weekly Signature' field and a 'Checked by School' field. The page number '13' is visible at the bottom center.

Day	Book & Page	Comment	Date	Corer's initials
Monday 9th				
Tuesday 10th				
Wednesday 11th				
Thursday 12th				
Friday 13th				

Section	Book & Page	Comment	Date	Corer's initials
1				
2				
3				
4				

Activity	Number of times played	Score on words above	Corer's Weekly Signature

Checked by School: \_\_\_\_\_

Page 13

# HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to  
**1.8 MILLION**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**90th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to  
**282,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**50th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to  
**8,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**10th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

 SCHOLASTIC



How?

# Finding Right Fit Books

A "right fit" book is a book that your child can enjoy reading on their own. Reading just right books helps your child develop as a reader. To find a book that is just the right fit for your child, try using the five finger test.

Here's how it works: Turn to a page in the middle of the book. As your child reads, hold up a finger for every word he/she doesn't know. Use the following guidelines:



Pick books that are at the right level  
Help your child pick books that are not too difficult, but that are still challenging them. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.



50 Recommended Reads for...

# Year 3 (ages 7-8)



SCAN ME

Or visit [www.booksfortopics.com/year-3](http://www.booksfortopics.com/year-3)

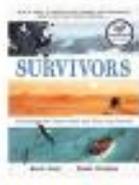
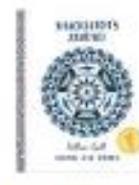
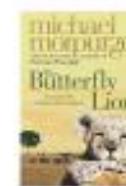
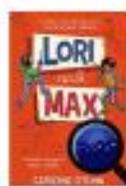
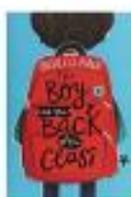
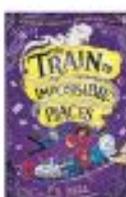
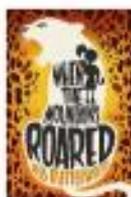
For more primary school booklists, visit [booksfortopics.com](http://booksfortopics.com)

50 Recommended Reads for...

# Year 4

(ages 8-9)

Books for Topics



SCAN ME

[www.booksfortopics.com/year-4](http://www.booksfortopics.com/year-4)

For more primary school booklists, visit [booksfortopics.com](http://booksfortopics.com)



This is our new programme for teaching spelling.

*'Spelling Shed's approach to spelling involves the relationship between sounds and written symbols as well as using morphology (including prefixes, suffixes, root words) to help spell through meaning.'*

We will use to teach spelling in the classroom and, over the next few weeks, use Spelling Shed to set spelling homework. Your child will be given a login (like Mathletics) to practise spellings at home. Further information will be sent out later in the term.

# Mathletics

- This is an online learning resource which will hopefully help all children enjoy maths and achieve outstanding results.

## Activities -

- These are open for the children to complete at any time however they may need to complete them again if they are set for homework.

## Live Mathletics

- This is an online game where children can play against each other, either in their class, school or around the world. Please note that this is a very safe website which is used by thousands of schools globally. Live Mathletics allows the children to develop their basic number fitness and speed.
- **(Please note that the children earn credits for beating their high scores so don't be tempted to have a go as you could spoil it for them!)**
- There is a weekly trophy to be won!
- **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A PERSONAL COMPUTER OF IPAD.**



# Helping your child in Mathematics.

## Things that you can do at home.



### Number Games

- Snakes and ladders
- Dominoes
- Cards – Rummy, Patience, Pontoon, Snap
- Monopoly
- I spy a number in town, on a journey
- Skipping / Hopscotch
- Ludo
- Bingo
- Yahtzee
- Darts
- Chess / Draughts
- Computer games – Brain training
- Crazy golf
- Connect 4



*The level of mathematical challenge in many of these can be altered by introducing more dice, doubling/halving the number thrown or the score.*

### Activities using numbers around us

- Car number plates – add the digits to find the biggest / smallest total.
- Grouping things into groups of 2, 3, 4 etc. – helps with multiplication / division.
- Telephone numbers – values of digits / total of the digits

### Counting

- Collections of objects – shells, buttons
- Cars or vehicles on a journey – how many red cars or how many Eddie Stobart lorries?
- Animals in a field
- Stairs up to bed, count in 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 6s,
- Sports scores – including things like batting averages or goal differences
- Pages in a book
- Tidy a cupboard / shelf and count the contents



### Beat the Clock

Time your child as they do one of the following:

- Count back from 100 in tens.
  - Count back from 75 in fives.
  - Starting at 6, count up in tens to 206.
  - Starting at 39, count up in twenties to 239.
  - Starting at 67, count up in thirties to 367.
  - Recite the 2 times table forwards / backwards
  - Recite the bonds to 10 as addition / as subtraction
  - Count back in negative numbers from -4 to -14, in twos
- Can they beat their record?



These can easily be adapted to the ability of the child.

### Sorting and Matching

*These might help you too!*

- Setting the table and sorting cutlery – this teaches 1 to 1 correspondence.
- Sorting clothes for washing – colour, size.
- Matching pairs – socks, shoes, gloves.
- Sorting groceries after shopping: find all the cylinders, cuboids





# Helping your child in Mathematics.

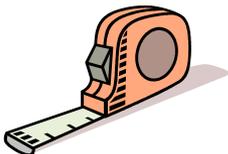
## Maths All Around.



### Measurement

#### Length

- How far to ...?
- How much further?
- Will this sofa fit in the room?
- Who is the tallest?
- How much taller is ... than ...?



#### Weight / Mass

- How much flour do we need?
- Is my suitcase too heavy?
- Which one is heaviest?



#### Capacity

- How much water do I need?
- Which container holds more?
- How much water have you drunk today?



### Useful Websites

- <https://nrich.maths.org/primary>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>
- <http://www.mathszone.co.uk>
- <http://www.mathplayground.com/games.html>

### Time

#### Years

- Order events in your life.

#### Months

- How many months in a year?
- How many months until Christmas?

#### Days

- How many days until your birthday?
- How many days are there left in the holidays?

#### Hours

- How many hours are you at school?
- How many hours until your bedtime?

#### Minutes

- How many minutes duration is this TV show?
- How many minutes will it be if we take the adverts out?

- How long will the journey take?
- What time does the train arrive?



- When does it start?
- When does it finish?

### Money

- How much does it cost?
- How much will 2 cost?
- How much will it cost if it is half price?
- If I pay using a £5 note, how much change will I get?
- If I get £2.50 change from a £10 note, how much did it cost?
- If the bill for the meal is £48, how much will each person pay?
- This item has 25% off, how much does it now cost?
- If I leave a 10% tip, how much is the tip and how much have I left in total?
- How much pocket money can I save in a year?



# Religious Education

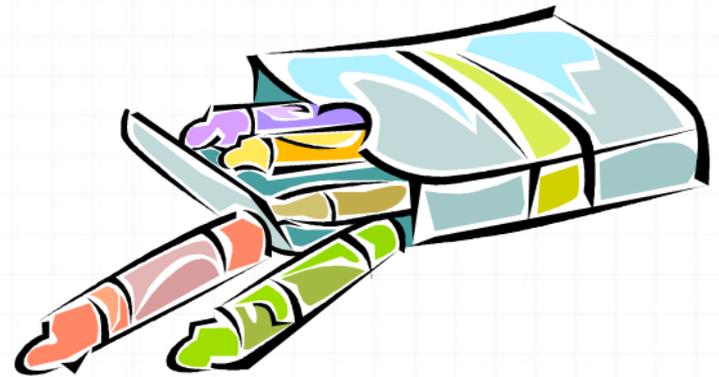
- We follow the Guildford Diocese guidelines
- There was a new curriculum in RE for 2023
- In Lower School we look at Christianity, Sikhi and Judaism
- The emphasis is on the children asking questions and exploring their own ideas
- In July 2024, we were graded as 'good' by SIAMs inspectors (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)



# The Curriculum for Lower School

## Foundation subjects:-

- Creative curriculum which includes:
  - History
  - Geography
  - Design and technology
  - Art
- Music – brass lessons for Year 4 children
- Physical Education:
  - Games– taught by Sports coaches  
(Planet Soccer – Mr McShane)
  - Gymnastics, Dance and Yoga
- P.S.H.E
- M.F.L (French)
- Computing (taught by Mr Smith)



# History

## Autumn Term



- **History - *Through the Ages*** – British prehistory from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.
- **Geography – *One Planet, Our World*** – Locate countries and cities. Significant places in the UK and carry out fieldwork to discover how land is used in the locality. Layers of the Earth, plate tectonics and the five major climate zones.
- **Design Technology – *Prehistoric Pots*** – clay techniques  
*Cook well, Eatwell* – food groups and healthy eating. Design and make a taco filling.
- **Art – *Colour Theory*** – Colour wheel and mixing.
- **Science – *Animal Nutrition & the Skeletal System***

# Geography

## Spring Term

- **Geography – *Rocks, Relics and Rumbles*** – features and characteristics of Earth's layers, including exploration of volcanic, tectonic and seismic activity.
- **Design Technology – *Making it Move*** – Cam mechanisms. Design, make and evaluate a child's automaton toy.
- **Art – *Ammonite*** – Techniques used in sketching, printmaking and sculpture.
- **Science – *Forces and Magnets, Rocks and Soils***



# History

## Summer Term



- **History – *Emperors & Empires*** – Ancient Rome and the Roman Empire.
- **Design Technology – *Greenhouse*** - Design and construct a mini greenhouse learning techniques to strengthen structures and use tools safely.
- **Art – *Mosaic Masters*** – Roman Mosaics using colour, pattern and themes.
  - ***Beautiful Botanicals*** - botanical art. Natural weavings, two-colour prints and botanical paintings of fruit.
- **Science – *Plant Nutrition & Reproduction***  
***Light & Shadows***

# Lower School Timetable

- Your child's class timetable will be stuck into their planner.
- As the year progresses, we may feel that things work better in a different order or on a different day.
- However, it is very unlikely for Games and PE to change until the Summer Term when swimming will start.

# Homework

- Reading – at least 3 times a week (to an adult and signed in your child's St Jude's Planner).
- Times Tables – we will be testing these 3 times a week (Year 4 only).
- Maths homework – using Mathletics. Children will be set a number of tasks to complete each week, where possible we will link these to what we have been learning or they will be revision topics.
  - Year 3 Mathletics set on a Friday
  - Year 4 Mathletics set on a Wednesday
- Spellings – The children will be given a set of words (generally based on a rule). The children will need to find 2 more words that fit the same rule. These need to be written in their planners by Wednesday. These words might not be tested as we will test 2 mystery words based on the rule. All children will also have personal spellings from a personal list.
  - Scores will be written in the children's planners.
- Some children are in smaller groups and will follow a different structure in order to meet their needs.

# Homework

- ❑ We are in the process of sending home a book with the following grid stuck in. This grid is to **last the whole half term** and children can pick which tasks they want to do and when.
- ❑ Please document activities completed in the book and return to school so we can celebrate their work.
- ❑ This grid will also have been emailed to you for reference.

# Homework



## Lower School - Additional homework activities for Autumn 1

<p><b>History:</b> This half term we will be learning about Prehistoric Britain in our topic 'Through the Ages'. Select an area of the one of these periods (Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age) and create a PowerPoint, leaflet or fact file about it. For example, settlements, food, clothing, tools and weapons.</p> <p><b>Date completed:</b></p>	<p><b>Computing:</b> We would like you to improve your computing skills by practising your typing skills. Use Dance Mat Typing - BBC Bitesize, progress through the units starting at Unit 1. <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr</a></p> <p><b>Date completed:</b></p>	<p><b>Special Events</b> The week commencing the 22<sup>nd</sup> September is Recycle Week. We would like you to make a poster to encourage more people to recycle and to raise awareness about its importance. For more information visit the following - <a href="https://www.wrap.ngo/take-action/recycle-now/recycle-week">https://www.wrap.ngo/take-action/recycle-now/recycle-week</a></p> <p><b>Date completed:</b></p>
<p><b>RE:</b> In RE we are looking at 'What are important times for Jewish people?' Can you find out about the importance of rest for Jewish families on Shabbat as a time set apart from the rest of the week. Write a few sentences to explain it and add illustrations if you can.</p> <p><b>Date completed:</b></p>	<p><b>English:</b> September 1<sup>st</sup> was World Letter Writing Day. Although this date has past, please could you write a letter to your new teacher/teachers telling us about yourselves. Your letter could include information about your family, friends, pets and hobbies etc. We will enjoy finding out more about you all.</p> <p><b>Date completed:</b></p>	<p><b>Spellings</b> How many different ways can you present some of your weekly spelling lists? Some ideas include: pyramid words, bubble writing, writing sentences for each word, drawing pictures to represent some of the words.</p> <p><b>Date completed:</b></p>
<p><b>Science:</b> This half term we are learning about Animal Nutrition and the Skeletal System. Draw a picture to show your favourite meal (main course and dessert) and label it. Do you think that your favourite meal is healthy or unhealthy?</p> <p><b>Date completed:</b></p>	<p><b>P.E.</b> Continue to practise the yoga poses that you have learnt in PE lessons so far e.g. the fox, the dancer and the warrior. If you have forgotten any of these log on to <a href="http://namastakid.com">http://namastakid.com</a> for reminders.</p> <p><b>Date completed:</b></p>	<p><b>Each half term you will be given a homework grid. You can complete activities of your choosing. We will provide you with a homework book. You may like to share work with the class. Team points will be awarded. PowerPoints can be emailed to your class teacher.</b></p>

# Behaviour

We have decided to simplify our school rules. As a result we are tweaking our behaviour policy slightly to reflect this.

We will still continue to praise the children when they demonstrate the school values.



## Our School Rules

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

We are raising the profile of restorative conversations, ensuring the children can reflect upon their actions.



### St Jude's C of E Junior School

Inspired by St Jude, we pursue excellence in education, kindness in the community and courage through faith.

Our values are:

- Hope
- Compassion
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Forgiveness

# Things your child should have in school every day

- St Jude's Planner (this is a really important means of communication)
- Reading book
- Bottle of water
- Trainers (a cheap pair for the field if wet)
- Coat and jumper

**PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING!**

Tissue / wipes  
donations gratefully received  
Thank You!



# PTA Events



JOIN THE FUN!

## ST JUDE'S PTA AGM INVITATION

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
7pm

St Jude's Infant School,  
Barley Mow Road

Join us for the **PTA Annual General Meeting** at St Jude's Infant School! Come along to learn about our exciting plans for the year, meet other parents, and find out how you can get involved in making our school an even better place for our children. Your voice matters!

Let's make this year amazing together!



Thank you for listening.

**Any questions?**

