

Year 4



Dear Parents/Carers,



Happy New Year and Welcome Back to the Spring Term!

We've had a fantastic start to the term in Year 4! On Tuesday, we celebrated a wonderful Epiphany Mass together, which was a lovely way to begin the new year.

In English, we are diving into persuasive writing and learning how to craft letters that really make an impact based on the book *The Firework Maker's Daughter* that we are reading in Master Reader lessons. In Geography, our focus is on "Where Does Our Food Come From?" - exploring the journey from farm to fork and understanding global food systems. In Science, we have started our new topic on Materials and States of Matter, investigating how different materials behave and change.

Thank you for your continued support- we're excited for all the learning and experiences this term will bring!

Homework

Friday lunchtime Homework club will commence in January for children who don't manage to complete their homework during the week. As a reminder the expectation is that the following is completed each week:

- x1 Maths.co.uk assignment
- x1 Accelerated Reader quiz per week (at least)
- Times table rock stars 21 minutes per week (at least)
- Weekly spelling practise

Please come and chat to your child's teacher if you have questions about this. Thank you for all you do to support your child's learning in school. It makes a huge difference to their academic progress and their confidence in class.

Weekly Spelling Quiz Update

From Spring term, weekly spelling quizzes will include 6 spellings from the current week's list, 2 from the previous week and 2 from an earlier quiz within your child's year group. This approach uses retrieval practice, which helps children strengthen their memory and move spellings into long-term retention, rather than just learning them for a single test.

Please don't be concerned if scores dip slightly at first while children adjust to this format - this is a normal part of the learning process and will support stronger spelling knowledge over time.

Spelling - Your child has been given the following spellings to learn for next Friday (16th January). You can also practise these on Spelling Shed.

expansion
extension
comprehension
tension
suspension
exclusion
provision
explosion
erosion
invasion

Times Table Rockstars – Children are expected to work in the ‘garage’ section for at least 21 minutes per week. Please encourage your child to complete this.

Accelerated Reading – Complete quizzes as and when your child has completed books. This should be roughly once per week. A common issue logging into accelerated reader, is the link, the following link will take you to the St Polycarp’s portal which will ensure log in details are correct:
<https://login.renaissance.com/12d2c82e-5d71-4f43-b9a3-32d66f06dfcf?state=1558619e-124e-4167-9a6b-9e1fdd099032>

Maths – Maths homework has been set on maths.co.uk.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/maths-with-michael>

This link will help explain how we have taught mathematical concepts in school. This week we are teaching multiplication.

Many thanks for continuing to support your child’s learning. If you have any questions or messages for your child’s class teacher, please come and speak to us at the end of the day or email info@stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk.

The Year 4 Team
Mr Jacobs & Miss Vardy



PARENT AND CARER BELONGING WORKING GROUP



This is the Xavier Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Belonging Pledge.

BELONGING PLEDGE

1. The school embraces all children into school life, all staff champion inclusion
2. Trust core Catholic values are integrated to ensure our school cultures are inclusive
3. We work together to ensure children can be the best version of themselves
4. Relationships and trust are central to championing diversity and inclusion
5. Intelligent and dignified support is provided to those who need it
6. A shared language and definition for inclusion and diversity exists within the Trust to ensure a consistent approach
7. Through their school experiences, pupils are passionate about their role as global citizens.
8. We actively listen to the voice of our community and act to empower individuals to be seen and heard. Everyone is seen as an individual
9. Leaders and governors demonstrate commitment in championing equality, diversity and inclusion
10. Staff and governors show empathy and humility; They are consciously aware of their own bias.



PARENT AND CARER BELONGING WORKING GROUP

Mrs Woolley is looking for a small group of parents to attend a working group, meeting termly.

The intent of the group is to discuss your experiences of the school and to ensure the school community is as open as it could be and that everybody feels valued.

If you'd like to be help us deliver our belonging pledge, and would like to be a part of this, please let us know by emailing:

sendinfo@stpolicarps.surrey.sch.uk



Design a carpet bed for Gostrey Meadow

Theme for 2026

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Winnie the Pooh, the theme is:

“Literary Characters inspired by the Natural World”

Think of beloved favourites such as The Hungry Caterpillar, Peter Rabbit and Jemima Puddle-Duck, Superworm and Alice in Wonderland.

How to Enter

- Create a square design for the carpet bed at Gostrey Meadow.
- Keep it simple—bold designs work better than very detailed ones.
- Email your entry to bloom@farnham.gov.uk or post it to the Farnham Town Council offices.
- Include your name, school, and year group.
- Deadline: Friday 23rd January 2026.

What Happens Next?

- The winning design will be chosen by a panel of judges.
- It will be brought to life by a specialist planting team and Farnham Town Council’s Outside Workforce in early summer 2026.
- The winner will be invited for a photo with the Mayor of Farnham by the display, and a press release will be shared with local media such as the Farnham Herald and Vantage Point magazine.



The 2025 winning carpet bed design featuring a ladybird and flowers

➤ MTC PREP SCHEDULE ✕

SEPTEMBER

GARAGE
(mins per week)
21

21 minutes a week is the magic number for achieving top MTC scores.

OCTOBER

GARAGE
(mins per week)
21

AUTUMN OUMTC*



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

GARAGE
(mins per week)
21

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
3

GARAGE
(mins per week)
18

SPRING OUMTC*



MARCH

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
5

GARAGE
(mins per week)
16

APRIL

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
3

STUDIO
(games per week)
3

GARAGE
(mins per week)
15

MAY

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
6

STUDIO
(games per week)
15

SUMMER OUMTC*



JUNE

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
21

*The OUMTC is our own mini MTC and it is in semi test conditions. It will give you a good idea of how your students will perform on the real thing. Take part in three OUMTCs throughout the year to give you a baseline, benchmark and time to respond to the results



Please see below for guidance on reading in Key Stage Two

Reading in Key Stage 2

Handy Hints



- Make reading part of your daily routine.
- Short sessions – **15 minutes per day.**
- Continue to read out loud to an adult as well as independently.
- Try to read a range of books including fiction and non-fiction.
- Complete the Accelerated Reader quiz at home, ideally within 24-48 hours of finishing the book.

How can parents help?

Reading improves with practice.

Encourage your child to read at home, share your own books, discuss books, ask questions about the book they have read and visit the local library.

Check that your child is completing the reading quiz – this is part of their weekly homework.