



Fishbourne CE Primary School

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Thursday 3rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

And just like that, we're back. WELCOME to Year 4! Can you believe we're here already? I hope you've all had a wonderful, sunshine-filled summer. We're so excited to welcome you back and to get stuck into another fantastic year of learning, growing and making memories.

Year 4 is such an exciting year with lots of new adventures ahead. We're looking forward to getting to know the children even better and supporting them as they become increasingly confident, independent and curious learners. Here's to a brilliant year!

Team Chameleon

Alongside Miss Furlong, Mrs Brown (am) and Mr Lawrence (pm) are part of the daily, teaching team. On Thursday mornings, while Miss Furlong is out of class, we will be joined by Mr Servant and Mrs White (Madame Blanche).

Class reader: Why the Whales Came by Michael Morpurgo

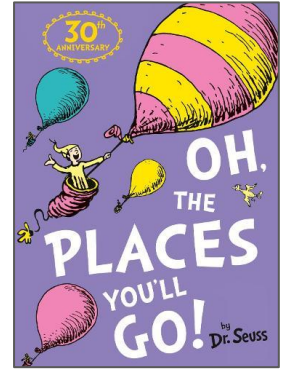
We're beginning our Year 4 reading journey with a classic text: Michael Morpurgo's Why the Whales Came. Set on the wild and mysterious island of Bryher, this atmospheric story is filled with friendship, adventure and a rather mysterious islander who seems to know far more than he lets on... As we journey alongside the characters, we'll be making predictions, unravelling mysteries and solving the real secret of Samson.

Upcoming Learning Experiences: overview

We welcome the new academic year in Chameleon class with a learning experience centred around self-reflection and goal setting for the year ahead, before journeying back in time to Ancient Rome and finishing off the half term with a whole school learning experience narrative. After the break, we will learn about 'Sound' and meet Sir Ernest Shackleton himself as we journey to Antarctica, whilst making our own pair of mittens to keep us warm in the run up to Christmas!

PSHE: Oh, the Places You'll Go!

'You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.' In our first learning experience of the year, we explore a Dr Seuss classic: 'Oh, the Places You'll Go!' We decide on our goals for Year 4, including what we want to achieve and what type of person we want to be, leading us back to our school value – only one you. We will discuss how to manage setbacks and how to overcome challenges in order to be the best versions of ourselves.



History: Ruling Romans

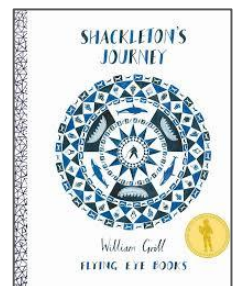
It's not long before we travel back in time to meet the mighty Romans, learning about their incredible inventions, road-building brilliance, gladiators and more. To bring the past to life, we'll be visiting the Fishbourne Roman Palace, where children will get to explore real Roman mosaics, marvel at ancient underfloor heating, and maybe even walk in a centurion's sandals. Togas optional, enthusiasm essential! Our end goal will be to be museum curators, showing off all that we have learnt along the way. If you'd like to join us on our trip to the Roman Palace on **Tuesday 22nd September**, please get in touch. Please see the upcoming trip letter for more information on this.

Science: Sound

After half term, we will be diving into our first science learning experience of the year: Sound. What causes sound? How do we make sound louder, quieter or higher-pitched? And, the age-old question: if a tree falls in the woods with no one around to hear it, does it still make a sound? All questions the Chameleons should be able to answer following on from this unit of work.

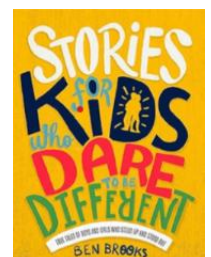
English: Shackleton's Journey

In the lead up to Christmas, as the days feel colder and the nights draw in, we take a journey to the coldest place on planet Earth: Antarctica. Our text driver will be the story 'Ice Trap' alongside William Grill's beautifully illustrated retelling of 'Shackleton's Journey.' The children will learn how truly magical, yet unforgiving, this continent can be and just how perilous visiting Antarctica in Shackleton's day was – making this epic tale of adventure one of the most impressive examples of endurance in modern history.



CREW

Each morning, we 'circle up' for Crew; one group with Mrs Brown and one group with Miss Furlong. Crew is a place where character development, collaboration and positive relationships are intentional, assuring success for all our school family. It's a structure that fosters a sense of belonging and a place where we can be our best selves while lifting others to achieve more than we think possible. Crew enables us to nurture effective learners, ethical people and contribute to making the world a better place to be. This term, Chameleons' Crew focus is: 'Do you dare to be different?' This block



of Crew sets out to give children an insight into other people's lives and the different reasons they've had to be brave and stand up to make a difference.

Home Learning

Each week, Chameleons will receive homework in accordance with the school's homework policy. This homework will focus on spelling & grammar, maths and reading. Some weeks, there will be some additional optional homework based on our current learning experience – a chance for the Chameleons to get creative!

Homework out – Friday

Homework due – Thursday

Times tables: Year 4 Multiplication Check (MTC)

Each week, your child will be given times tables homework in the form of **Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS)**, which we have reinvested in this year as a school. Your child will have a set number of games to complete. If your child is confident with the accuracy of their recall, then TTRS will allow them to improve their recall speed. This will ensure your child is ready for both Years 5 & 6, and the national Multiplication Check in June.



But what is The Multiplication Check and why is it important? The Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) is a key stage 2 assessment to be taken by pupils at the end of year 4 (in June). The MTC's purpose is to ensure the times tables knowledge is at the expected level nationally, to ensure children are well-prepared for the Upper Key Stage 2 Mathematics curriculum. It is an online test where pupils are asked 25 questions on times tables 2 to 12. For every question, your child will have 6 seconds to answer, and in between the questions, there is a 3-second rest. Questions about the 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12 times table come up more often.

Reading

In our 'meet the teacher' session, I outline the importance of reading with your child for at least 15 - 20 minutes, 5 days a week. Children who read 20 minutes a day/5 days a week are exposed to 1.8 million words in one school year. Compare this to students who read 5 minutes per day – they will be exposed to 282,000 words per school year! Additionally, reading enables your child to foster feelings such as empathy as they 'walk in someone else's shoes,' and experience different points of view. Please ensure this takes priority at home and that this is being recorded in reading logs so that we can see what your child is reading. We aim to read one-on-one with your child at least once a week, so please leave their reading log in their bag each day.



If you have the time and would like to **volunteer** to come in and listen to the Chameleons read in the afternoons, this would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the school office.

The school day

A polite reminder that the gates open at **8:40am** and close for the start of the school day at **8:45am**, when the register will be taken. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly, ready to start their learning with their classmates. Consistent school attendance ensures your child doesn't miss out on daily learning, while helping them build the great habits and friendships they need to thrive. Every single day counts, and when our kids are here, they stay connected, confident, and on track!

Swimming – Spring term 1 only

PE – Wednesday & Friday each week. Your child will come home in their PE kit.

Contact us

If you would like to speak to a member of the Chameleons team, please approach us at the end of the day. Alternatively, our email is chameleons@fishbourneprimary.co.uk, which should be checked once daily during the working week. For any information regarding end of day collection arrangements, or urgent notices, please contact the school office so that this information is not missed.

I look forward to meeting you all in the upcoming weeks,
Miss Amy Furlong

