

Welcome to Skylark Class



2025-26

Year 4

Teacher: Mr Mulhearn

	<i>Always Learning!</i>		
			
Greet any challenge with a can do attitude	Take responsibility and commit	Communicate clearly as we conquer	Reflect and celebrate

Hello Skylark Class!

We're thrilled to welcome you to Skylark class this year! We're really looking forward to getting to know you during the first few weeks of September and beginning our exciting journey in Year 4 together.

This guide outlines many of the key expectations for life in Skylark class. Some parts are just for you, and others are for your parents—so it would be wonderful if you could read through it together.

If you have any questions, we are always happy to help and support you in any way that we can. Feel free to contact us at skylark@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk if you have any questions at any time.

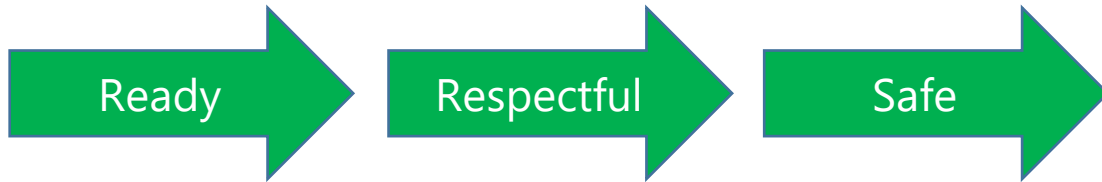
We look forward to seeing you soon!

Mr Mulhearn



Mr Mulhearn

I'm thrilled to be teaching you all this year. After working with some of you last year, I cannot wait to start our learning whilst also having fun! This is my first year at St whites, so I'm really looking forward to teaching you lots of new things, especially in maths and science. I am extremely excited to see you all improve on your skills and grow your love for school :)



Our class

In Skylark class, we will consistently uphold our school values by being ready to learn, showing respect to others, and making safe choices. We'll also explore how to face challenges with confidence and positivity by developing a growth mindset and embracing a "can-do" attitude.

Maths

What will I learn in year 4?

We will start to become more secure in a range of areas of maths and this will include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

- **Place value** – Recognising the place value of each digit in a three digit number, reading and writing numbers up to 1000 in numerals and words, finding 10 and 100 more or less, counting in 50s.
- **Addition and subtraction** Add and subtract numbers with up to three digits using formal written methods.
- **Multiplication and division** – Fluent with 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 & 10 times tables, writing and calculating multiplication and division statements using mental and then written methods.
- **Fractions** – Comparing and ordering unit fractions; adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator.
- **Measurement** – Measuring, comparing, adding and subtracting lengths, mass, volume and capacity; measuring the perimeter of shapes.
- **Geometry** – Identifying right angles; identifying horizontal and vertical lines and pairs of perpendicular and parallel lines.

Statutory Multiplication Tables Check

In June, all year 4 pupils across the country will be participating in the multiplication tables check (MTC). The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics.

It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions.. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. We will share more information nearer the time but please feel free to ask us any questions you may have about this.

Will I have to do maths at home?

The short answer is 'yes!' All the time if possible – adding up prices in the shop and weighing ingredients for cooking are just some of the useful activities for building confidence with number. In addition to this, you will have maths homework to complete weekly on Maths Shed – this will all be explained at the beginning of September. If there is one thing that you will need to know in Jay class, it is your times tables! Don't try to learn them



Websites to support learning at home

TT rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> - fluency of times tables

Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> - fluency of number facts and subitising (recognising numbers without counting them)

Hit the Button - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - fluency of number bonds, times tables and other number facts

Maths Shed - <https://www.mathshed.com/en-gb>

all at once but focus on a times table and when you have worked out that one, move onto the next.

Reading

Reading is such a fundamental part of your education and we will spend lots of time this year on all aspects of reading but, most importantly, we will definitely be reading for pleasure!

Which books will I read this year in Skylark Class?

We're keeping this as a surprise because we don't want to spoil the fun but we are sure you are going to love it! We will even have a trip to the Cheltenham Literature Festival to meet the author!

Which colour band will I be reading?

By the end of Year 4, children should have reached **dark blue** book band. If you commit to reading every day, then you should absolutely be able to reach this target.

Year 1	Light Blue
	Green
	Orange
Year 2	Turquoise
	Purple
	Gold
	White
	Lime
Year 3	Brown
	Brown
	Brown
	Grey
	Grey
Year 4	Grey
	Dark Blue

Will I have to do reading homework?

You will need to aim to complete a reading activity daily for a minimum of 10 minutes – this could be listening to an audio book; reading to a parent/sibling/teddy bear/cat; reading to yourself; filming yourself reading; or recommending a book to others. You will be asked to write your home reading in to your reading record at least 5 times a week and this will be checked on a Monday morning. Because we are so passionate about reading, we will find opportunities to support you with your reading at lunchtime if you are unable to complete your daily 10 minutes at home.

Writing

My friend says that in Skylark class you have to join your handwriting all the time. Is it true?

Yes! All pupils will be expected to write in legible, cursive handwriting. We will do some practice at this in class so that we are all experts by the end of the year.

We will always love to read any extra writing you do at home- the more creative the better!



Spelling

Will I have a spelling test?

Yes! Some spellings do not follow specific rules but require us to spend time learning how to spell them. In KS2, we call these our dictations. In class, you will be tested weekly on a word list. Once you have achieved 5/5 on each list, we encourage you to move on to start learning the next one!

To achieve this, we will support you with strategies but just like with learning your times tables, the best thing is to practise...and practise...and practise!

Year 3/4

<u>List 1</u> mention naughty breath probably arrive	<u>List 2</u> answer often opposite surprise ordinary	<u>List 3</u> weight various women surprise ordinary	<u>List 4</u> favourite February forward through hearts	<u>List 5</u> heard peculiar although strange famous
<u>List 6</u> guide century position group enough	<u>List 7</u> believe grammar increase important interest	<u>List 8</u> perhaps thought strength eight suppose	<u>List 9</u> extreme experiment strength medicine special	<u>List 10</u> notice separate promise occasion remember
<u>List 11</u> fruit experience caught potatoes guard	<u>List 12</u> breathe complete circle learn sentence	<u>List 13</u> disappear accident build centre calendar	<u>List 14</u> minute island natural difficult imagine	<u>List 15</u> reign recent early history appear
<u>List 16</u> describe exercise purpose continue library	<u>List 17</u> actual eight bicycle consider address	<u>List 18</u> knowledge quarter though particular possess	<u>List 19</u> pressure material height occasionally business	<u>List 20</u>

Can you give me any tips to help practise?

Here are some strategies you can try:

- Log on to Spelling Shed
(<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/>) You can use the same Spelling Shed log in as year 2.

- Pyramid words
- Rainbow writing using different coloured pens
- Making up 'silly' sentences using the words



- Draw around the word to show the shape
- Set a timer and write the word as many times as you can in the time limit. You only score a point for the correct ones!
- Look, say, cover, write, check

Other areas of learning

What will you do if I need some extra help with my learning?

Within the class, there will be people who have different starting points in different subjects. We will use a mixture of pre-teaching the day before, breaking things down into small steps, interventions and challenges to make sure that everyone is learning.

Will I learning anything that isn't maths and English?

Of course! We are going to learn lots more about a whole range of subjects this year. In history we will be learning about the Stone Age, Iron Age and the Romans. In geography we will be focussing on regions of the UK, mountains and rivers. In science we will learn about animals (including humans), states of matter and plants. There will also be computing, RE, PSHE, music, French, art and DT to keep us busy!

Can I find out more information at home?

We are always keen to hear about anything you have learnt at home – particularly if you have found out more about something we have looked at in class. In addition, you will be given POWer project sheets. These are optional tasks that can be completed at home with your family. I am sure they are looking forward to sharing all of your learning with you.



PE

We will have two PE sessions a week. In the autumn term, one of these sessions will be swimming on a Tuesday. You must have your swimming kit in school that day as swimming is not only a national curriculum subject but also a hugely important life skill.

You will be expected to take responsibility for making sure you have your PE kit in school on these days. If you are unsure of what to include in your PE kit, here is the list:

Plain white or pale blue T-shirt (pupils must change their t-shirt for PE)

Black or navy shorts

Black plimsolls (daps)

Dark trainers (for outside wear)

Navy, grey or black tracksuit for cold weather

If you have earrings, you must bring your own tape to cover them during PE sessions.

We will have opportunities to take part in Forest School sessions and work on the allotment over the year. A timetable will be shared with parents with the days, times and clothing required!

Finally...

Thank you for taking the time to read through all the information in this document. We hope it has helped to clarify what to expect in September and answered any questions you might have. If there's anything else you'd like to know, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at: skylark@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk and we will try to help in any way that I can.

We look forward to the wonderful year we're going to have together in Skylark Class!