



Curriculum Information

Grade 4

ENGLISH

Unsure what your child gets up to in English lessons? Get clued up with our guide to the Grade 4 English curriculum.

Literacy still brings together the three elements of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and listening

In literacy this year, the children could be studying one or more of the following topics:

- Stories with an historical setting
- Stories in imaginary worlds
- Stories from other cultures
- Plays
- Newspapers and magazines
- Information texts
- Persuasive writing

Reading in Grade 4 – your child will:

- apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes to read aloud and understand the meaning of new words they meet
- read a range of fiction, poetry, plays and non-fiction texts
- re-tell stories orally
- perform poems and play scripts, showing understanding through intonation and action
- infer characters' feelings through their actions, justifying their inference with evidence
- identify main ideas drawn and summarise these

Children should be allowed to choose a book at school to take home with them to read. You may be given an exercise book to write your comments in when you read with them. Children will be reading with their teacher in groups once a week (known as guided reading).

Try this at home:

- Bedtime stories are still important – choose something which may be a little tricky for your child to read themselves
- Take an interest in what your child reads and encourage them to explain why they like a certain book or author
- If you have a reluctant reader, try something which is funny, such as a comic or joke book
- Be a role model – let them see you reading!

Writing in Grade 4 – your child will:

- understand how to spell words with a variety of prefixes and suffixes
- use the possessive apostrophe in words with regular plurals
- use a wider range of connectives (when, before, after, while, so, because)
- start using inverted commas to punctuate speech
- use fronted adverbials with commas (for example: Cautiously, she opened the door...)
- become more confident in joining their handwriting, increasing its legibility and quality

- create settings, characters and plot in narratives using a range of descriptive language
- use paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme
- assess and improve their writing

Try this at home:

- *When you are away, encourage your child to send postcards to their friends, or help them find a penpal*
- *Suggest your child keeps a diary, writing a little every day, or tries another fun writing activity*
- *If your child loves writing stories, look out for competitions for young writers.*

MATHS

Want to know what subjects will be the focus in maths lessons in Grade 4? Find a detailed breakdown [here](#).

As with reading and writing, by Grade 4 most children have a good grasp of the basic maths skills and their mental maths recall is becoming more automatic. It's important by now that the children have a good knowledge of their times tables up to ten. The children will be starting to develop their own ideas of how to solve maths problems, and how to check that their calculations are correct. Calculators may be introduced in this year, and your teacher will show the children how to use them correctly. Maths is still taught daily through a mix of oral, practical and written work, and the children are given plenty of opportunities to see how maths links to other areas of the curriculum, and real-life situations.

Number and place value

- Counting in steps of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000
- Recognising place value of each digit in a 4-digit number
- Counting backwards through zero to include negative numbers
- Rounding any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000

Calculating

- Adding and subtracting with numbers up to four digits using column addition and subtraction
- Knowing multiplication facts for all times tables up to 12×12
- Multiplying three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers

Fractions and decimals

- Finding fractions of quantities (for example: $\frac{2}{6}$ of 48)
- Understanding equivalence between fractions and decimals
- Dividing one-digit and two-digit numbers by 10 and 100
- Rounding decimals with one decimal place to the nearest whole number

Measuring

- Converting between units of measurement
- Working out the perimeter and area of shapes
- Calculating with amounts of money
- Telling and writing the time using the 12-hour and 24-hour clock
- Solving problems involving converting between units of time

Geometry

- Classifying different types of triangles and quadrilaterals
- Recognising acute and obtuse angles
- Identifying lines of symmetry in 2D shapes
- Plotting coordinates in the first quadrant
- Translating shapes up/down and left/right

Statistics

- Interpreting and presenting data in bar charts and time graphs
- Solving comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in bar charts, pictograms and tables

Try this at home

- *Keep on with the times tables – automatic recall really does help at school and with homework. Practise in the car or on the way to school, set your child a challenge, play times tables games and, if necessary, offer a small reward as motivation*
- *If your child has weekly pocket money, encourage them to save and work out how much they will have after two, three or four weeks*
- *Go on a walk and give your child a compass so they can keep track of your direction*

SCIENCE

Find out what is taught in Grade 4 science and how you can build on your child's learning at home.

In Grade 4 science, your child will be encouraged to ask questions about scientific concepts and then carry out experiments to find out the answers. In doing this they will:

- learn what a 'fair test' is.
- take measurements from a range of equipment.
- gather and record data.
- report on findings orally and in writing.

Science topics in Grade 4

Living things and their habitats

- use classification keys to group living things.
- recognise that environments can change and this can pose dangers.

Animals, including humans

- describe the functions of the digestive system in humans.
- identify types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.
- interpret food chains, naming producers, predators and prey.

States of matter

- classify materials as solids, liquids or gases.
- observe that materials change state when they are heated or cooled.
- understand evaporation and condensation as part of the water cycle.

Sound

- understand how sounds are made through vibrations.
- look at how pitch and volume can be altered.

Electricity

- understand how a circuit is made up of cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers.
- recognise some common conductors and insulators.

Try this at home

- *Look at your teeth in the mirror. You will notice that they are all different shapes and sizes. Why do you think this is? Think about how your teeth help you to break down food. How do the different shapes and sizes help to do this?*
- *With adult supervision heat some butter in one pan and some chocolate in another. What happens to them as they heat? Now put each one in a small dish and put it in the fridge. What do you think will happen?*
- *If you have any musical instruments in the house, have a go at playing them. Objects need to vibrate to make sounds. How is each instrument vibrating?*
- *Go on line and see if you can find any information on food chains, the water cycle or electricity. Now you can impress your class with your background knowledge when you get back to school!*