

WELCOME TO YEAR 4



2025-2026

The Year 4 Team



Mr Frelich – Y4 Class Teacher

Favourite subject to teach: Computing

Did you know?: I studied computing at university so have a real passion for coding and programming.

The best thing about being in Year 4 is.... becoming fluent with your times tables and going on your first residential.



Mrs Canadine- Teaching Assistant

Did you know Mrs Canadine came to St Alban's school as a child and has worked here for 32 years!

The best thing about being in Year 4 is being able to watch the children develop their personalities and grow into confident individuals whilst being an important, considerate part of the school.



Mrs Brotherton- Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Favourite subject to teach: French because mastering a new language gives children confidence and boosts self-esteem. It also allows the children to broaden their appreciation of other cultures.

Did you know?: I love ice hockey and hold a season ticket for the Sheffield Steelers.

The best thing about being in Year 4 is.... helping the children grow and develop into independent learners.

Year 4 Experiences



Trips and Visitors

In the Autumn term Year 4 visit Yorkshire Sculpture Park as part of their work in art.

As part of the RE curriculum, children also have a visit from a Hindu Temple in Nottingham, who shares traditional Hindi dress, customs and beliefs with the children.

We also have our whole-school annual trip to the pantomime. This year we are seeing **Snow White**.

The Castleton Residential is a key part of being a Year 4 at St Alban's, and marks pupils' first residential. Children stay in a youth hostel in Castleton overnight and take part in a geography walk, visit to Peveril Castle and take part in adventurous activities. They also visit Treak Cavern with a tour guide.

This year our residential is taking place from the 18th-19th June 2026.



From April, pupils will have weekly **Swimming Lessons** at Maltby Leisure Centre as part of our Year 4 curriculum. Pupils work in small groups with an instructor to ensure their swimming tuition allows them to make great progress- no matter their starting point.

Lessons cover water confidence, swimming unaided, as well as water safety and dealing with emergencies.

Maths

As well as building on their excellent knowledge of column addition and subtraction in, pupils start to use the formal methods of short multiplication and short division in Year 4, enabling them to solve arithmetic calculations with increasingly big numbers. They are also introduced to negative numbers, and learn to read and write Roman numerals to 100.



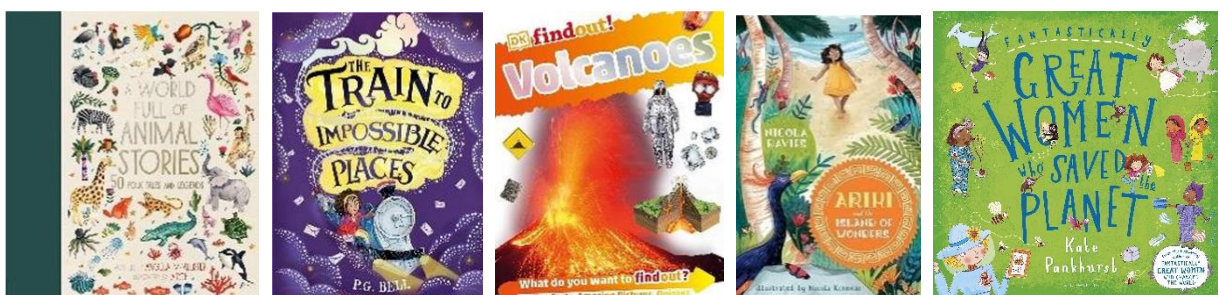
At the end of the year, pupils take the Multiplication Tables Check, which is a statutory assessment which tests all of their multiplication fact knowledge. Pupils are supported to be confident and ready for this through regular use of Times Tables Rockstars and Reflex in school.

Reading

By Year 4 pupils are fluent readers and our reading curriculum is focused on building up reading speed and understanding. At St Alban's children read aloud in class frequently and are taught how to add expression and tone to their voices. Reading comprehension in Year 4 continues to build on retrieval skills, but increasingly focuses on drawing inferences about characters, such as how they are feeling. Pupils are expected to give evidence and justifications for their answers. Reading is taught through our Pathways to Read texts.

These texts are closely connected to our writing curriculum, allowing them to also use key vocabulary and ideas in their own independent writing.

Our main texts used for in Year 4:



Writing

We follow the **Pathways to Write** curriculum at St Alban's, which gives pupils half a term to become immersed in a text before moving onto their own independent writing. Children write a range of text types including diary entries, non-chronological reports and stories. A key focus for writing in Year 4 is to develop their sentences using fronted adverbials and an increasing number of conjunctions. Additionally, all pupils study and write their own free-verse poetry as part of our Year 4 writing curriculum.

Spelling and Handwriting

We use a combination of the ReadWriteInc. Spelling scheme and our own bespoke spelling units to support pupils to learn Common Exception Words.

In Year 4 pupils practise writing using joined up handwriting frequently, increasing their writing speed.



PE

In PE lessons pupils participate in the same sports each day in order to build on their prior learning and skills. We include a range of competitive and non-competitive opportunities for children to work together and improve their fitness.

We aim for all children in the school year to have the chance to take part in one sports competition outside of PE sessions.

Autumn 1 – Tag rugby, hockey

Autumn 2- Athletics, dance

Spring 1- Football, gymnastics

Spring 2- Athletics, netball/basketball

Summer 1- Tennis/dodgeball, Cricket/rounders

Summer 2- Athletics, basketball



Art



Drawing

Pupils build on their knowledge of observational drawing by learning to draw contour lines to show form.

Painting

Children study Impressionism and Van Gogh. They apply learning of complimentary colours and stippling technique to recreate Starry Night.

Sculpture

Following a study of different artists, pupils create sculptures using a range of media, including wire frames and clay.



Design and Technology

Mechanical Systems

Pupils design, make and evaluate a mechanical poster which showcases an aspect of their learning from Year 4.

Food Technology

Children research, design and make sandwiches for nursery-aged children to promote a balanced diet. This includes learning about nutrition, and safely using knives to cut a range of foods.

Programming and Control

Pupils use Crumbl technology to program lights for a police car they have created from a net.



History

Roman Britain

Children learn about how the Roman invasion of Britain has shaped the country we live in today.

Coal Mining

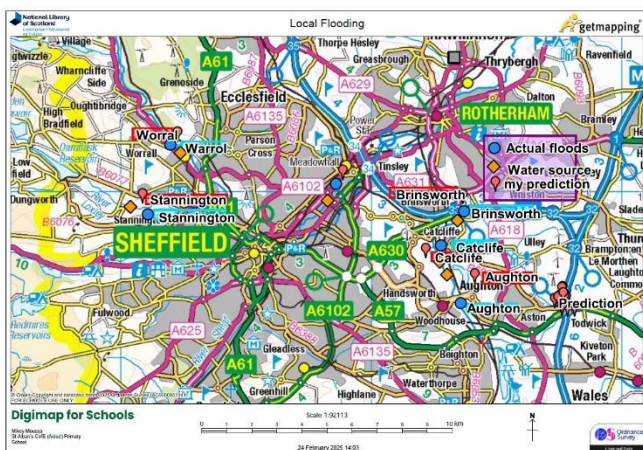
They look at the history of coal mining (locally and nationally) and the working conditions for those working the mines.

Local History

This unit looks at Quarrying and the impact this has had on our local area: Wickersley. Pupils explore our neighbourhood and look for evidence of its past.



Geography



Russia – children develop mapwork skills through a study on Russia. They identify its major geographical features using Digimaps and explore time zones.

Rivers and Mountains – pupils find out about major rivers and mountains in the world and their locations. They also learn the key geographical vocabulary for parts of rivers and mountains. Work on rivers is linked to finding out about famous local floods and their causes.

Castleton Study- pupils visit Castleton as part of their fieldwork unit and find out about the physical and human geography of the area. They look at similarities and differences between Castleton and Wickersley, and use their map skills to navigate the area.

Religious Education

In RE we primarily use Understanding Christianity to support pupils to develop a strong knowledge and love of Christian values. We also ensure pupils are exposed to and have a good understanding of other faiths, particularly those which are prevalent in modern Britain.

Recently in Year 4 we have had a visitor from a Hindu temple to gain knowledge from someone first-hand about Hindu beliefs.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1
What kind of world did Jesus want?	For Christians, when Jesus left; what was the impact of Pentecost?	What do Hindus believe God is like?
Christianity	Christianity	Hinduism
Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Why do Christians call the day that Jesus died 'Good Friday'?	What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?	How and why do people mark the significant events of life?
Christianity	Hinduism	Thematic Unit

PSHE

PSHE is taught through 3 main strands at St Alban's, and in Year 4 these build on previous learning from lower down school.

Relationships – a focus on developing positive friendships, both online and offline. Pupils also learn about confidentiality, and how to discuss differences sensitively.

Living in the wider world- children learn about what it means to belong to a community and what responsibilities this may bring. They also begin to learn about money and saving.

Health and wellbeing- children learn about oral and body hygiene and begin to learn about puberty. Pupils also learn about common medications we use in everyday life, and how to stay safe around them.

We continue to use **MyHappyMind** each week to support pupil mental health and wellbeing. Pupils have their own journals to help them reflect on their mental wellbeing.



Science



Science taught in Year 4:

Biology

- Classifying and identifying living things
- Teeth and eating
- Inheritance and evolution – fossils, adaptation and change over time
- Food chains – producers, predators and prey

Chemistry

- Solids, liquids and gases – including the water cycle

Physics

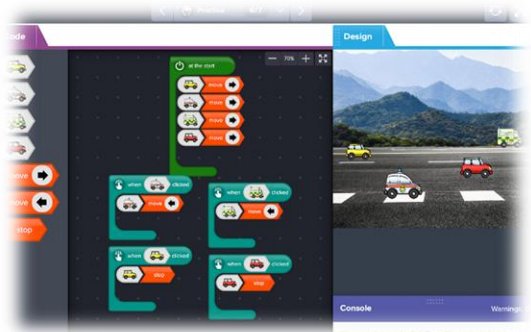
- Sound- how sound waves travel and how we hear
- Electricity – safety and creating circuits

Computing

This year is the first year of our new computing curriculum. Pupils in Year 4 will:

- Learn about the structure of the internet, and how to tell if something on the internet is reliable.
- Create and edit their own podcast audio files.
- Explore how photo and image editing are used on the internet and how to tell that an image has been manipulated.
- Change their own images using photo editing software.

We will also continue to use Discovery Programming. Pupils in Year 4 plan and code their own games where the score increases during play.



Music



Our music curriculum is taught through two strands: learning to play the recorder and singing.

In recorder sessions we learn about musical notation and performance skills, as well as how to physically play the instrument.

Singing sessions include listening to a range of musical genres and appraising these – drawing similarities and differences between them.

Pupils are given the opportunity to perform short pieces of music to each other, to other classes and to the rest of the school to build up their confidence and skills.

French

In Year 4 we continue to use Language Angels to support language learning. There is a real focus on ensuring that children are aware of French phonics, and to develop confidence in speaking. Children will be introduced to a range of sentence stems and verbs in each unit, as well as key vocabulary.

Our French topics: Introducing myself, My Family, Pets, Classroom language and At the Teashop. We also have a final story based unit retelling Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



