

# Year 4 Newsletter – Spring 1

## Welcome

Welcome back to term 3 and a happy new year! I hope that 2026 is a great year for you and your family 😊  
We hope you have had a lovely half term break. This term we will be very busy in class with our new learning.

## Spelling and Reading

This year we will have our test spelling on a Thursday and new spellings will be sent home on the same day. In reading we will be focusing on fluency and reading for meaning.

Our class text this term will be Llama Out Loud, we will also look at Julius Cesar.



## Writing

We will be writing a fiction piece based on our reading last term “Leo and the Gorgons Curse”  
We will also be writing a newspaper report based on the first Olympic Games held in Ancient Greece.  
We will finally be writing an essay based on our Geography topic “To describe Eastern Europe”.



## Maths

In maths we will be working on division using partitioning and short division. We will then be working on fractions where we will learn about equivalent fractions, representing fractions greater than one as mixed numbers and improper fractions and then we will learn to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator.



We will continue to do weekly times tables tests. Please support your child to learn the times table they are currently working on ready for their test each Monday.

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO GO ONTO TT ROCKSTARS REGULARLY TO PRACTISE THEIR TIMES TABLES.**

## Science

Our science topic this term is “Ecology.” We will be learning about living things and habitats, food chains, ecosystems, air pollution and how it is a threat to the environment and ecology in our local area.



## Computing

In computing this is the first of the two programming units in Year 4 and looks at coding. We will design, test and de-bug codes, use if statements, use repeat statements and look at number variables.



## Art & Design/Design & Technology

In art we will be studying “design” in art. We will look at what is design in art, we will be examining design, more specifically, we will look at Matisse’s cut outs and The Scream, we will then finally finish by making our own Scream!



In design technology we will be using moving mechanisms to design and make miniature playgrounds.

**Geography/History**

Our history topic this term is “Life in Ancient Rome”. To deepen our understanding we will locate Ancient Rome, we will look at the monarchy, republic, empire, Pompeii, a day in the life of Ancient Rome and then finally look at the Ancient Roman language Latin.



Our Geography topic this term is ‘Eastern Europe.’ We will look at key places in Eastern Europe, the climate of Eastern Europe, physical features of Eastern Europe, a comparison of and Eastern European country with the UK and then look at recent conflict in Eastern Europe.

**Music**

In music we will be learning about the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of Beethoven’s 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony. We will learn how the piece influenced other music and we will create our own compositions using motifs within the piece.



**PE**

PE days are **WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY** so please remember to send your child to school dressed in PE kit on those days.

Children may stay in PE kit all day. Long hair to be tied up and **no jewellery please**. Thank you.

Topics taught this term:

- Multi Skills
- Tennis



**PSHE**

Teaching Unit: Dreams and Goals

This will be covered in these separate lessons:

- Hopes and Dreams
- Broken Dreams
- Overcoming Disappointment
- Creating New Dreams
- Achieving Goals
- We Did It!



**RE**

In RE we will be learning about Islam and answering the question “Does completing a pilgrimage make a person a better Muslim?”



**French**

In French we will be learning how to give information about family members and our face. We will learn the names given to different family members as well as being able to name parts of the face.



**Reminders**

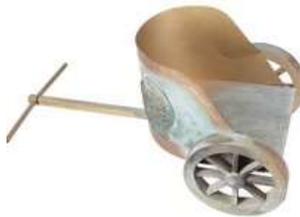
As a reminder, our school uniform for key stage 2 is a white shirt with a purple cardigan/ jumper with black trousers/skirt and black shoes.

Children are expected to read at home daily. Reading records should be brought into school each Monday for Dojo points to be awarded.

**Homework Project**



To complement our history topic, Life in Ancient Rome, for next term, here are some suggested ideas that the children could make: the Colosseum, make a Roman helmet, a Roman chariot, a Roman Soldier, a Roman villa, city of Pompeii.



**We encourage every child to spend at least 30 minutes on TT Rockstars multiplication practice a week. We also encourage your child to go onto Ed Shed for Spelling practice - Minimum 2-3 sessions each week. We have our weekly spelling check each Thursday. Please encourage your child to read! They are expected to read at home daily. Reading records should be brought into school every day for Dojo points to be awarded.**



**Skills Builder**

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities



**Times Tables Rockstars**



**Spelling Shed**



**Rewards**

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude. Points can be 'spent' on prizes periodically.



**Class information**

**Class Teacher:** Mrs Morgan    **Teaching assistant:** Mrs Eden

Please remember to **name your child's school jumper or cardigan.**

We request that all children bring a named water bottle to school every day.

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts.



**Dates for the diary!**

**Spring 1**

**Monday 5th January – Teacher Training Day 3 – School closed to pupils**

**Tuesday 6th January – School reopens to pupils**

**Friday 9th January – Issue newsletter**

**Monday 13th January – Young Voices**

**Thursday 15th January – Grow a reader parent workshop - 3:20pm**

**Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd – Maths drops in parent sessions**

**Monday 9th to Friday 13th February – Children's Mental Health week**

**Friday 13th February – School closes for half term**



**Grow a Reader**

HAZEL LEYS ACADEMY

Join us for our Parent/ Guardian workshops.  
Six individual workshops across the year.

Learn how to support your child's reading at home in a safe, supportive space.  
Enjoy the flexibility to join the workshops that best support your child's learning journey.

**3:20-3:45pm in the school hall**

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Building strong foundations –
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Reading book top tips –
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Growing vocabulary and language skills
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Developing accurate readers
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Understanding reading development
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Fostering a love of reading

Further information will be provided about each session throughout the year before you register to book.



# Special Educational Needs



## Information for Parents

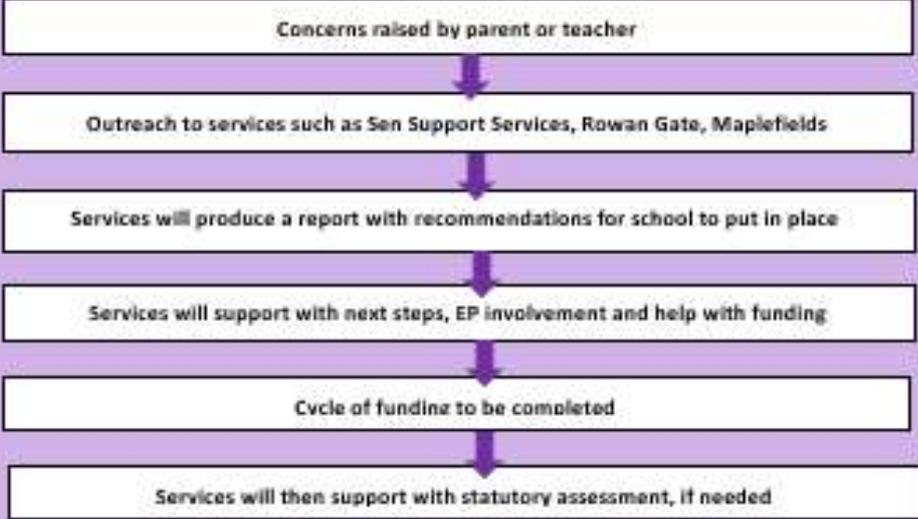
### What are Special Educational Needs?

Some children have difficulties that mean they don't learn in the same way or at the same rate as other children. For example, they have a speech difficulty that makes it hard for them to be understood or express their ideas and causes problems with learning letters and sounds (phonics), that can make learning to read difficult.

These children need special support to help them to learn and to achieve.

They may need this support for a short time or for a longer period, but during this time they will be part of our Special Educational Needs (SEN) register and we will keep a close eye on their progress, look carefully at what special support they need and keep in close touch with their parents.

## Hazel Leys Academy SEND Protocol



## Who do I talk to if I think my child has Special Needs?

### Your child's class teacher

They will be able to listen to your concerns and discuss with you how your child is managing at school.

They will discuss your concerns with the SENDCo.



### The SENDCo (Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-Ordinator)

Miss Kamel is always happy to discuss any concerns with parents.

You can arrange to see her by contacting the school office or by sending an email to:

[akamel@hazelleysacademy.org](mailto:akamel@hazelleysacademy.org)

## What happens if my child has Special Needs?

If your child is thought to have special needs, this will be discussed with you and the child may be placed on the SEND register. This is a list of children who need to be closely monitored and who may need additional help.

Very few children with SEN need one-to-one help in school. Most of them can make progress in class with teachers who are aware of their difficulties and know how to adapt their teaching to suit them.

Many (but not all) children on the SEN register will have some small group time each week to help them with their particular difficulty (e.g. a language group or a reading group).

## Communication with parents

- Parents of children on the SEN register must be given opportunities to meet with the teacher and/or SENDCo to discuss their child's progress at least 3 times a year. This can be at parents evening or at additional meetings.
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)  
These give parents a more central role in discussing and deciding what their child needs and a framework of expectations through which to support the child's needs.

## What can Hazel Leys Academy offer children with Special Needs?

- A commitment to helping every child make progress and being happy at school.
- A range of interventions to help children overcome the barriers to their learning.
- Adaptions in the classroom that help children learn in a way that suits them.
- Referral to support agencies such as Speech and Language Therapists or Specialist Teaching Service.
- Regular reviews between parents, Teacher and SENDCo to discuss the children's needs and progress.