

# Week 16: Friday 15th May 2026

## Have you completed your homework?



### Weekly checklist:

#### **Times Tables:**

Please see the letter at the bottom of the sheet which informs you about the MTC check and how to support your family.

#### **Reading:**

Read five times per week (at least 2 of those to be your **reading scheme book**) and record it in your reading diary. **An adult should sign each entry**. Practise reading aloud as well as reading independently (silently). **Reading Records will be collected in on Monday.**

#### **Reading Plus**

Work hard to try and complete your x5 sessions.

*We do complete Reading Plus for 15 minutes every afternoon, but please note that this doesn't mean you don't have to do any at home. If you haven't managed your 5 reads in school this needs to be completed at home. If you want to do more - that's excellent.*

We are aiming for 80% or more comprehension success.

#### **Spellings: Please refer to Medium Term Plan - Stage 4 page 4**

This can be found on TRJS website: our learning: year 4 - 4<sup>th</sup> tab down titled spelling yearly overview - page 4.

#### **Stage 31**

Practise your spellings using the sheet and/or using EdShed.



### **MATHS:**

### **ENGLISH:**

**PLEASE BRING IN HEADPHONES FOR FRIDAY'S SPELLING LESSONS.**

### **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**

**DT: HAVE A LOOK FOR KITE RESOURCES.**

Just to let you know that Year 4 will be making their own kites on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Children will need to make sure they have their resources (in a named bag) which might include a bin bag, plastic bag, tarpaulin, masking tape, ribbon, string, empty kitchen roll tube etc. We will provide the dowl rods and paints/ colouring pens.

The kite sail has been designed to be no bigger than an A3 piece of paper. Children have brought home their design, which can be altered if necessary.

## **SPORTS DAY REMINDERS**

TRJS are excited to welcome you to school on TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026 for our annual SPORTS DAY.

Answers to FAQs can be found on Newsletter 22 (17th April). The Sports Day programme was emailed out with Newsletter 23 and can also be found on the homework section of the website.

The children will be able to tell you if they are in the finals for the field events / obstacle course. All of the heats for other events will be run on the day.

PE kit needs to be worn on this day.

On the day children will need a small bag containing the following items:

- A sunhat
- Suncream
- Snack
- Jumper
- Water bottle
- A cushion to sit on

Spectators will need to bring their own chairs to sit on.

WEATHER - If we need to cancel Sports Day due to adverse weather, a message will be sent to parents as soon as the decision is made.

# OPAL - We Need You!

Our children love OPAL play at lunchtime. We now have a mud kitchen / café, willow arch, willow dome, den building and tyre play to name just a few things.

Our next project is to build a large sandpit for the children to play in. Mrs Rose has kindly offered to dig this out for us, but we will need parental help with the final set up. We are asking any parents available on Saturday 6th June to come to school from 9am-12pm to help us with some OPAL projects.

## Our projects include:

- Lining the sandpit
- Filling the sandpit with sand
- Painting the storage sheds
- Planting up the tyres
- Creating play spaces for the children out of pallets

We kindly ask that you do not bring children to school for this session due to the tools and equipment that will be on site. If you are able to help us out, please email Mrs Vardy ([lvardy@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:lvardy@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)) so that we can send out further information.



## Medium Term Plan - Stage 4

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	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Objective	<b>Step 1:</b> Words that are homophones	<b>Step 7:</b> Words ending in '-ation'	<b>Step 13:</b> Words ending in '-sion'	<b>Step 19:</b> Words where 'au' makes an /or/ sound	<b>Step 25:</b> Words that are homophones	<b>Step 31:</b> Challenge Words
Words	accept, except, knot, not, peace, piece, plain, plane, weather, whether	information, sensation, preparation, vibration, decoration, donation, duration, registration, population, determination	expansion, extension, comprehension, tension, suspension, exclusion, provision, explosion, erosion, invasion	automatic, August, launch, haul, astronaut, cause, author, applaud, autumn, audience	scene, who's, affect, hear, whose, heal, effect, here, heel, seen	guide, possess, forwards, accident, eighth, occasion, Wednesday, actually, busy, forward
Objective	<b>Step 2:</b> Words with the prefix 'in-' meaning 'not'	<b>Step 8:</b> Words ending in '-ation'	<b>Step 14:</b> Words ending in '-ous'	<b>Step 20:</b> Words ending in '-tion'	<b>Step 26:</b> Words spelled with 'c' before 'i' and 'e'	<b>Step 32:</b> Words that are plurals with possessive apostrophes
Words	inability, inactive, inadequate, incorrect, incurable, indefinite, inelegant, inflexible, insecure, invisible	adoration, admiration, coronation, detonation, observation, location, generation, exploration, combination, illustration	poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, marvellous, perilous, tremendous, enormous, jealous, precious, disastrous	invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion, stagnation nomination, migration, communication, selection	circle, century, centaur, circus, princess, voice, medicine, celebrate, celery, pencil	girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's, ladies', cats', women's, geese's
Objective	<b>Step 3:</b> Words with the prefixes 'il-', 'im-' and 'ir-'	<b>Step 9:</b> Words ending '-ly'	<b>Step 15:</b> Words ending in '-ous' incl. those where 'ge' from the base word remains	<b>Step 21:</b> Words ending in '-sion'	<b>Step 27:</b> Words containing 'sol' and 'real'	<b>Step 33:</b> Revision words
Words	illegal, illegible, immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect, irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible	sadly, completely, wildly, bravely, gently, foolishly, proudly, horribly, nervously, happily	courageous, outrageous, nervous, famous, adventurous, disadvantageous, ridiculous, carnivorous, rapturous, torturous	expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission, impression, obsession, procession, omission, concussion	solve, insoluble, real, reality, dissolve, solution, realistic, unreal, realisation, soluble	expression, musician, reluctantly, group, scene, circle, solve, supermarket, bicycle, except
Objective	<b>Step 4:</b> with the prefix 'sub-' meaning 'below' or further divided	<b>Step 10:</b> Words ending '-ily'	<b>Step 16:</b> Words where a suffix is added to words ending in 'y'	<b>Step 22:</b> Words ending in '-cian'	<b>Step 28:</b> Words containing 'phon' and 'sign'	<b>Step 34:</b> Revision words Words
Words	subdivide, subheading, subject, submarine, submerge, submit, substandard, subtitle, subtropical, subway	usually, finally, beautifully, thoughtfully, wonderfully, carefully, faithfully, peacefully, cruelly, generally	meriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily, prettiest, nastiness, beautiful, pitiful, silliness	musician, magician, electrician, politician, mathematician, technician, optician, beautician, physician, dietician	signal, telephone, assign, microphone, homophone, sign, phonics, signature, megaphone, design	incorrect, illegible, subject, international, believe, wildly preparation, coronation, bravely, thoughtfully
Objective	<b>Step 5:</b> Words with the prefix 'inter-' meaning 'between or among'	<b>Step 11:</b> Words where 'ch' makes a /sh/ sound	<b>Step 17:</b> Words ending in '-ious' and '-eous'	<b>Step 23:</b> Words that are adverbs of manner	<b>Step 29:</b> Words with the prefixes 'super-', 'anti-' and 'auto'	<b>Step 35:</b> Revision words
Words	interact, intercept, interchange, intercity, intercom, interface, interfere, international, internet, interview	chef, chalet, machine, brochure, parachute, chute, chaperone, chandelier, crochet, quiche	serious, obvious, curious, hideous, spontaneous, courteous, furious, various, victorious, gaseous	reluctantly, quickly, generously, unexpectedly, gently, curiously, furiously, seriously, victoriously, courteously	supermarket, superhero, superstar, superhuman, antiseptic, anticlockwise, antisocial, autobiography, autograph, automatic	brochure, famous, tension, penniless, hideous, different, astronaut, completion, admission, mathematician
Objective	<b>Step 6:</b> Challenge Words	<b>Step 12:</b> Challenge Words	<b>Step 18:</b> Challenge Words	<b>Step 24:</b> Challenge Words	<b>Step 30:</b> Words with the prefix 'bi-' meaning 'two'	<b>Step 36:</b> Revision words
Words	strength, grammar, calendar, women, appear, straight, interest, opposite, increase, believe	favourite, complete, continue, experiment, February, naughty, material, knowledge, remember, famous	extreme, although, breath, caught, different, exercise, medicine, thought, business, possession	surprise, separate, group, height, potatoes, though, particular, through, caught, woman	bicycle, biplane, biped, bicentennial, biannual, bilingual, biscuit, biceps, binoculars, bisect	gently, separate, affect, unexpectedly, potatoes, circus, insoluble, microphone, superhuman, bicentennial



Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may know, the Multiplication Tables Check for year 4 children is happening between Monday 1st June and Friday

12<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

### What is the Multiplication Tables Check?

- The checks consist of 25 times tables questions. The questions will only be multiplication and they will go up to  $12 \times 12$ . There's nothing novel about the questions and they don't require problem solving so there's nothing to trip them up.
- There will be 6 seconds to answer each question.
- The check will be taken online during school time.
- There is no pass mark.
- Teachers will be able to apply for some children to be able to pause between questions.

### Why do the children need to take this test?

All year 4 pupils in England will take the check. The Government made the check compulsory in 2022. They say:

*The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.*

But why are times tables so important? Having rapid recall of times tables makes other areas of maths much easier. Fractions is the most obvious area where learning times tables well is essential. However, every multiplication, division, long multiplication method and short division and long division method require speed and instant recall of times tables while at primary school. At secondary school the needs become even greater.

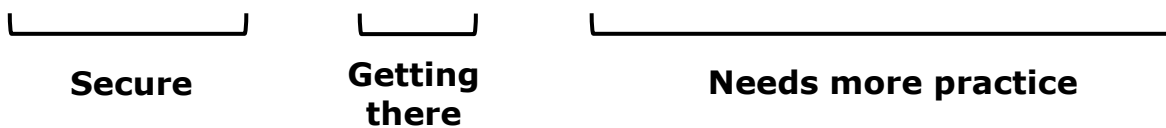
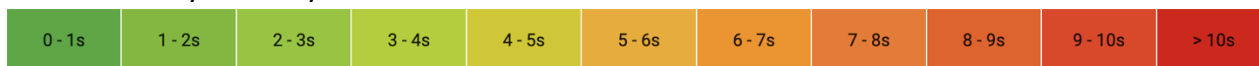
Furthermore, having the tables secure frees up their working memory for newer, more challenging tasks at hand.

So learning them now, in year 4, sets children up for a more successful maths career later in their school life.

### What can you do to help your child learn their times tables?

Attached to this letter is your child's heatmap (which can also be accessed by logging in to your child's account > Stats > Fluency). It shows their current recall time for each of the times tables facts. The greener the fact, the quicker the response time. Any facts shown in red or orange are slower than 5 seconds, and should be practised.

Spend some time with your child identifying which tables they need to practise, and celebrating the ones they already know.



### How can you help them improve their recall times?

There are lots of ways to learn times tables, but here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Make sure they play daily in **Garage mode** on Times Tables Rocks Stars - The Garage game mode is very clever and will adjust the questions your child is asked, ensuring they are always working on the facts they need to improve. Also, give them a times tables square to use whilst they play. This way they can double-check facts they are not sure about
- Sing times tables songs. There are hundreds available! Put them on in the car, bathtime or any 'free' time where you have a few spare minutes.
- Chanting the old-fashioned way- rehearse the tables forwards and backwards, gradually increasing in speed.

- Plenty of praise- When encouraging children to pursue something important, like timetables, there's no harm in heightening their enthusiasm with plenty of praise. 'You got this!' 'Look at your heatmap now!'
- Write out the tables – This can be in the form of a simple list or you could also be a bit more fun. Being creative will make writing and learning the tables more enjoyable.
  - Write the facts as the petals of a flower;
  - Get them to test you on the facts and get them wrong on purpose and see if they correct you!
  - Treasure Hunt: Hide the facts around the house and give them the answers. Can they find them in record time?
  - Take a pot of water and a paintbrush outside to 'paint' the facts on a wall.
  - Use chalks to write the facts outside in giant numbers.

**Times tables are important, but it should be an enjoyable experience learning them!**