



# Curriculum Information

F Group  
Year 4



st Chris  
2024-25



ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL  
LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY



# Curriculum Information

## F Group Year 4

The Junior School follows a one-week timetable with a topic-based curriculum. Subject specific learning is, in the main, approached through the lens of the topic.

Below you will find a summary of the main subjects covered in F Group (Year 4) and the amount of time dedicated to them each week. The class teacher is the main lead for the subject except for those subjects which are led by specialist teachers, detailed below.

## Topics covered in F Group

### Autumn Term: ¡Hola Mexico!

We begin the year by studying the ancient Mayan civilization in southern Mexico and Guatemala. Students learn how the Mayan civilization grew strong, even when the odds against it were huge! Students explore the characteristic features of Mayan society and architecture. The topic moves on to explore modern Mexican society and festivals. A trip to The British Museum and Wahaca restaurant is a highlight for all.

### Spring Term: Fall of the Giants

This topic explores the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Sumer, Indus Valley, and Shang, showing where and when they developed, the similarities between them and how they relate to a broadly based chronological understanding of the past. This provides a context for moving on to study Ancient Egypt in more depth, exploring archaeology, society, religion, and their writing system.

### Summer Term: Famous Artists

Through this topic, students explore the work of six famous portrait artists. For each artist, the class looks at their unique and distinctive style and explores what inspired their work and influenced their journey. Throughout the topic, students look at their art in the wider context of their personal life, culture, and time. Students create their own self portrait in the style of each artist, ready to be exhibited at the end of term. We also take another trip to London to visit the National Portrait Gallery.

Subjects over each week

English 4 hrs 45 mins		Maths 4 hrs 45 mins	
Science 2 hrs		Computing 1 hr	Humanities 1 hr
Art and Design Technology 1 hr	PSHE & RSHE 1 hr	French 30 mins	Music 30 mins
Forest School 1 hr 30 mins		PE 30 mins	Ukelele 30 mins
Swimming 45min +		Games 30 mins	



## English

### Louise Day

4 hours 45 minutes *Number of hours over 1 week*

The curriculum is varied and covers a wide breadth of writing genres with students experimenting with non-fictional and fictional pieces. The units covered include stories from other cultures, non-chronological reports, poetry, stories with familiar settings, biographies, recounts, persuasive writing, fantasy, and instructional writing. In F Group, students have weekly grammar and spelling lessons which tie into these units.

## Maths

### Louise Day

4 hours 45 minutes

Maths in F Group consolidates numeracy skills that the students have gained previously as well as developing their understanding, problem-solving and using and applying skills further. The main topic areas are number (place value and the four operations), fractions and decimals, measure (length, area, and perimeter), geometry (position, direction, angles, and 2D shapes), statistics, time, and money.

## Science

### Louise Day

2 hours

F Group science work develops the students' scientific understanding of the world around them. In science, students are encouraged to ask questions about scientific concepts and answer those questions through scientific enquiries. They have opportunities to develop their practical skills and scientific knowledge and understanding and this provides a suitable foundation for further learning. The following topics are covered over the course of the year: States of Matter, Living Things and their Habitats, Animals Including Humans, and Sound and Electricity.

## Computing

**Louise Day**

**1 hour**

Computing skills are covered through our subject specific lessons each week as well as during other sessions such as topic study and English. During the latter, the students can develop their general word processing skills. Some focus areas in computing lessons include coding, creating music, using spreadsheets and presentation slides to display the weather, and using drawing software.

## Humanities – Geography and History

**Louise Day**

**1 hour**

Humanities is split into a selection of geography and history topics which students study over the course of the year through their termly topics. The following units are covered: early life on Earth, chronology, the achievements of the earliest civilizations, local location study, settlements and land uses, natural resources distribution, map reading, and drawing skills.

## Art and Design Technology

**Louise Day**

**1 hour**

A wide selection of skills are introduced and consolidated throughout the year in art and design technology. From drawing and painting to sculpture and mixed media, students develop their artistic skills and cultivate a personal artistic style. Areas of coverage include: painting lines and colour, portrait painting, printing, clay models, papier-mâché, junk modelling, and free painting, all with a cross curricular theme.



## PSHE and RSHE

**Louise Day**

**1 hour**

PSHE (Personal, Social, and Health Education) and RSHE (Relationships, Sex, and Health Education) are taught every week independently of each other. PSHE topics covered are Safety First, Think Positive, and Aiming High. RSHE is taught through a program that develops skills and knowledge in a values-based context which allows us to enhance our own values, learning, and behaviour while developing student wellbeing. There are six units; Caring and Responsibility, Coping with Change, Families and Committed Relationships, Similarities and Differences, Healthy and Happy Friendships and Healthy Bodies, and Healthy Minds.

## French

**Edel Davies**

**30 minutes**

Through games, songs, mime, dance, and play, students learn key French vocabulary, linguistic structures, and grammar. Students begin to take some autonomy over classroom routines to consistently revisit and build upon previously learnt language. Through a variety of engaging situational topics, students revise and meet new grammatical concepts such as definite and partitive articles to express noun, gender, quantity, possessive adjectives, regular present tense verb formations, conjunctions, and negation. Focus remains on understanding aural input and oral output, however, students are also encouraged to notice features of written French when reading individual words or short sentences.

## Music

**Martin Goodchild**

**30 minutes**

Students in F Group sing songs that challenge an octave range, trying out rounds and aiming to follow directions for crescendo and diminuendo. Topic themed songs are introduced to enhance students' understanding and engagement with each class topic studied. The class all learn to play the ukulele when they reach F Group, being taught, and led, by a specialist teacher. Improvising, rehearsing, and performing as an ensemble are key features in F Group. As well as building on rhythmic reading, the students are introduced to pitch and notation.







## Ukelele

**Dan Bartlett**

**30 minutes**

Students in F Group spend half an hour per week learning to play the ukulele. Students follow a course based around eighteen songs that take beginners from playing open strings to songs that use three, four or five chords. The course utilises interactive resources and introduces students to songs in a variety of styles with pieces becoming progressively more complex as the course develops.



## PE

**Abigail Lester**

**30 minutes**

Students participate in the following activities which aid fundamental skill development: fitness, outdoor and adventurous activities, creative dance, gymnastics, tennis, and athletics. These skills, alongside those taught during their games lessons, are supported with after-school practices and the opportunity to play competitive fixtures.



## Games

**Abigail Lester**

**30 minutes**

Students follow a programme of football and netball (Autumn term), rugby and hockey (Spring term), and cricket and rounders (Summer term). Students will find ways of attacking successfully when using other skills, using a variety of simple tactics for attacking well, keeping possession of the ball as a team. Students will focus on improving the skills of sending, receiving, striking, and travelling with a ball in a range of contexts. They will learn to make informed decisions during small sided games and simplified versions of recognised competitive games whilst developing an attitude of fair play and enjoyment.



## Swimming

**Jenny White**

**50 minutes (+ changing time)**

Students in F Group will develop the stamina to swim 100m with ease and work on perfecting an effective technique in the entirety of four strokes (including breathing and timing). This may be over 200m+ (100m front crawl with bi-lateral breathing). Throughout their practice, students will also learn how to tread water for 60 seconds, scull for 10m, fully sub-merge with ease, and swim 10m under water. In F Group, specialist swim teachers signpost students to clubs and additional aquatic opportunities to enhance and promote individual swimmer's pathways.

## Forest School

**Lydia Sommerville**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

In Forest School sessions, students in F Group explore the environment's variety of leaf, plant, animal, and birds sharing our space and learn to identify some of them. Students also use the features of plants and animals to classify them. Throughout the sessions, students learn how to use knots and tarps to make effective shelters. Students also learn how to use a bowsaw to cut logs for a fire. In every lesson, students consider how to keep ourselves and other wildlife safe. In the year, students also learn how to read the temperature accurately and how to minimise risks and dangers when at play.

## What is *Forest School*?

Forest School at St Chris is a child-centred, inspirational process that gives our young learners opportunities to challenge themselves, develop confidence and increase their self-esteem through hands on learning experiences in a natural environment. Sessions are based on a fundamental respect for students and for their capacity to instigate, explore and maintain curiosity in the world around them. Most importantly, our students develop a deep and meaningful connection to the natural world and understand their place in it.



## St Chris strikes the balance between academic and personal interest development

*Current Parents' Survey, 2022*