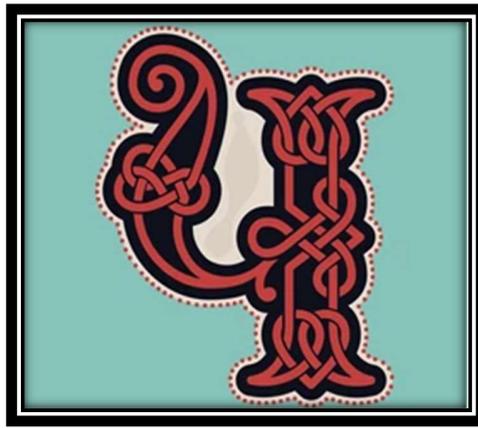


The Hedge School



Fourth Class

Core Learning: Course Manual

Religion, Gaeilge, English,
Handwriting, Mathematics and Music

Day-by-Day Lesson Plans & Instructional Tips

Authentically Irish, Faithfully Catholic

Dia is Muire agus Ládraig duit!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SELECTING *The Hedge School* for your curriculum provider for Fourth Class. We are very excited to have you with us and we are looking forward to working with you and your family this year and beyond!

As you may already know, we are a Great Books Curriculum. This means that we'll use workbooks only when they're strictly necessary—and we will instead focus on excellent selections from some of the greatest literature of Western Civilization and from our own Irish heritage. We've picked only the *best of the best* for your student and your family to enjoy together!

In this Core Learning Course for Fourth Class, we cover the core, essential curriculum subjects for the child in Fourth Class. We also invite you to pick up one of our Social, Environmental and Scientific Plans (either 'Ancient History', 'Christendom', 'Reformation & Revolutions', or 'Modern History') for an *even more* complete education.

Here's an overview of what we will study this year!

Religion: As always, this is the most essential subject that we offer. This year, we will continue using the beautiful reprints of the classic primary school textbook, *Our Holy Faith*. This tried-and-true text contains stunning artwork, Catechism questions for revision and memorisation, and excellent revision questions to ensure your child understands the material and can practise his Catholic religion well. This is a solid Catholic text that we're sure both parent and child will enjoy!

Gaeilge: The study and love of our native language is another very important subject. We encourage children to really love Irish by selecting a relevant and engaging textbook, *Caint is Comhrá*. We provide parents complete answers to the exercises in the Main Textbook and in the Portfolio—all in our custom-made Answer Key. *Caint is Comhrá* also offers a range of online resources to help non-natives (or mothers who haven't studied Irish in a while!) teach Irish to

Maths

Books/resources required:

CJ Fallon Mathematics Programme. Choose ONE:

English version: Mathemagic 4

Publisher: CJ Fallon

ISBN: 9780714414430

OR Irish version: Mata Draíochta 4

Publisher: CJ Fallon

ISBN: 9780714416793

Table Toppers 4

Publisher: CJ Fallon

ISBN: 9780714417165

Note: As before in our maths programme for First through Third Classes, we allow parents to simulate a Gaelscoil environment and utilise an Irish-language workbook for Maths. We recommend the Irish-language version, but it's your choice! (We cater for both versions in the Day-by-Day Plans and Answer Key!)

For this year's formal study of maths, we continue learning to multiply and divide and we continue revising basic skills in addition and subtraction, but with larger and larger numbers.

For both maths workbooks this year, be sure and keep the lessons short—around 15-20 minutes per daily! This recommendation is to ensure that your child is fully focused during this time and can devote their whole attention to what they are learning.

As in our previous Classes, we encourage you to keep some small objects around to count, to multiply and divide. Manipulatives really help children to make abstract mathematics concepts easy to understand! Maths with Legos is much more fun and understandable than just a workbook! For those of you not with us before: simply find several small objects, then make your own mathematical signs...and have your child play around with the objects for as long as he likes.

Also, there are many other maths manipulatives on the market if your desire and/or your budget allows—you may especially enjoy *Cuisenaire Rods* at this age and the rest of Primary. Pegboards are mentioned in the text, if you'd like to invest in one of those! (**None** of these are required, but you may enjoy them!)

Cuisenaire Rods: <https://www.abcschoolsupplies.ie/product/wooden-cuisenaire-rods-introductory-set-of-74>

Pegboards: <https://www.silkes.ie/Maths-Materials/Peg-Boards/>

Other maths resources: <https://www.silkes.ie/Maths-Materials/>

Music

Books/resources required:

Melodies in D

Publisher: Outside the Box

ISBN: 9781906926304

Music is our last subject in this Core Learning for Fourth Class—one of our personal favourites! We believe that children should learn the very basics of music, as it helps their brain to grow and develop in ways that the other subjects simply do not. Music is a key part of a Classical education, and we especially love our own Irish songs and the traditional tin whistle!

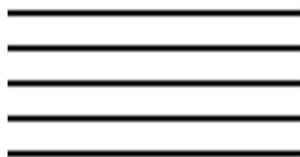
In Third Class, we had your child learn a new note each week then work on a short song featuring that note. This year, we revise our notes briefly, then play the scale each day as a warm-up exercise—then plan some exciting tunes from Classic composers and from Ireland and around the world!

(If you were not with us for Third Class and/or this is your child's first time with a tin whistle and you would like basic instruction in the Tin Whistle, please contact us for a personalised lesson plan for your situation.)

Additional Information for the first two weeks:

Last year, we learned some basic information about music. Take time in the first two weeks to revise this information if needed:

The Staff



The foundation of the written musical language is the staff. It is made up of five lines and four spaces (left). There are 5 lines and 4 spaces, on which the notes (below) will be written.

Clefs and Note Names

Music notes are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet: A, B, C, D, E, F, G. For the tin whistle, we will only concern ourselves with note on the 'treble clef' (the left-most symbol that looks a bit like a fancy G).