S* PAUL'S CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

A Guide to Year 4 2025 – 2026

Mr T. Natynczuk (4TN Form Teacher)

Ms K. Peters (4KP Form Teacher)

Introduction

St Paul's Cathedral School is a Christian, co-educational community where the values of love, justice, tolerance, respect, honesty, service and trust are encouraged and practised to promote positive relationships throughout the school community and where the safety and welfare of each child is of the utmost importance.

The school aims to instil a love of learning through a broad curriculum. It aims to give each pupil the opportunity to develop intellectually, socially, personally, physically, culturally and spiritually. All pupils are encouraged to work to the best of their ability and to achieve standards of excellence in all of their endeavours.

Through the corporate life of the school, and through good pastoral care, the school encourages the independence of the individual as well as mutual responsibility. It aims to make its pupils aware of the wider community and encourages a close working relationship with parents and guardians.

Welcome to Year 4

Year 4 is an exciting year as it is a chance for children to develop their independence after building their foundations in the Pre-Prep and in Year 3. **Tom Natynczuk and Kate Peters** are the Year 4 form teachers. Together they will oversee the pupils' academic progress, carefully consider their pastoral needs and will teach English, Maths, Science and the Humanities. As in Year 3, the pupils will also have PE, Dance, Games, ICT, Drama, Art, French and Music taught by specialist teachers.

The children will be form based for English, Maths, Science and Humanities. This will enable form teachers to carefully monitor the progress of each child and plan for appropriate challenge and support in each area of learning.

Timea Toth and Jake Banks will also provide valuable teaching assistance throughout the week, small group support and I:I support for pupils.

SPCS: Welcome from the Head

A warm welcome to this new academic year. This guide provides an outline of the year ahead for your child and we hope you will find the information useful. No guide can cover everything, so do please get in touch if you have any questions.

We rely on close communication with you and encourage you to share any joys, successes, worries or concerns so that we have the best possible picture of your child's needs and progress.

Your child's form teacher acts as your first contact for communication but do remember they are not in front of a screen during the day but working with your child: call the School Office if you have any urgent messages, questions or concerns.

Throughout the busy year ahead, you can expect to see developments in every aspect of learning and character development: here's to a great year!

Judith Fremont-Barnes

Our Philosophy

We grow lifelong learners: young people who have the curiosity to ask the questions that need asking, the drive to make a difference, the tenacity to solve problems. We develop initiative and teach teamwork. Joy in learning also really matters to us: our teachers make learning irresistible. We teach our pupils to: understand and respect themselves, understand and respect others, understand and respect the world in which they live (locally, nationally, globally).

We feel strongly that all achievement must be rooted in wellbeing. Teaching healthy habits and attitudes to learning, ambition, success and failure is central.

Children are not just brains in a jar! We care about, notice and nurture the whole child. Character, creativity, academic performance, manners, musicianship: we focus on the little things that make a big difference and instil habits to underpin success.

Nothing matters more to us than the wellbeing of our pupils. We work in partnership with parents to support the wellbeing of every individual. Our amazing team of teachers and support staff are dedicated to bringing out the best in every child. We're proud to have been described as 'pastorally superb' by the Good Schools Guide.

This is a community where everybody belongs. Kindness is our cornerstone. We value and encourage ambition, enthusiasm, compassion, resilience and active participation. SPCS pupils know how to step forward, take a risk, try hard, roll up their sleeves and get the job done.

Aims and Principles

PREP PASTORAL CARE

At SPCS, pastoral care is at the very heart of all we do. The Good Schools Guide describes SPCS as 'pastorally superb'. Your child will be known, noticed and nurtured right through the Prep years.

Pastoral care is always our priority: we understand that all achievement needs to be rooted in wellbeing. During the Prep years, children learn to be increasingly independent: while this is exciting for them, it can also bring anxieties. We work hard to understand each child's needs and equip them with the tools they need to overcome any challenges.

Secure relationships are at the heart of your child's wellbeing. Our approach places great emphasis on the skills needed for self-management, developing and nurturing friendships and working together in teams. Learning how to communicate with others, clearly and effectively, is a key focus in the Prep School. Relationships Education is actively taught through Personal Social Health Education lessons.

We support our pupils in developing respect for themselves, others and the world around them. We make our expectations of behaviour clear and reinforce them through awarding house points and through celebration at assemblies, for example, with our weekly Respect Award.

Confidence is developed through growing competence. Regular opportunities to perform (at assemblies and concerts and events such as Sports Day) build self-belief.

OUR PASTORAL TEAM

Prep class teachers oversee your child's pastoral care under the oversight of Caroline Heylen, our Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead. Our pastoral team also includes a team of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, the School Chaplain, a Counsellor, a Mental Health Lead and ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants). Boarders are additionally supported by access to an Independent Listener, separate from the management of the school, whom they can contact at any time.

The Chaplain is available to all children for an informal chat on a drop-in basis on Wednesday afternoons. Children may also benefit from working with an ELSA or our Counsellor; this is managed through the Learning Support team.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We work in partnership with you to understand how your child learns best. We depend on great communication with you to ensure all aspects of your child's wellbeing are considered and that learning in every area is optimised.

Parenting through the Prep years certainly can have its challenges, as children learn to manage aspects of their lives independently. We aim to provide parents with a forum for discussion and advice, both through access to the Wellbeing Hub and our own seminars and workshops on issues such as balancing the risks and opportunities of online life,

Our partnership with parents is forged through our curriculum evenings, parent meetings, learning showcases and concerts. Our weekly Circular newsletter keeps you up to date with activities and achievements across the Prep School. In addition to regular parent meetings and reports, you will always find an open door for discussion and for sharing joys and concerns.

THE PATHWAY TO SENIOR SCHOOL

St Paul's Cathedral School has an excellent track record of working in partnership with parents to find just the right next school and ensuring that our pupils are well prepared to gain and take up their places at their chosen destination.

While there is no such thing as 'the perfect school', it is possible and important to find a really good 'fit' for your child's senior education.

Finding the right school starts with parent consultations with our future schools team, headed by Alison Wright, Deputy Head Academic, usually towards the end of Year 4 or beginning of Year 5, which look at the emerging personality and the cognitive profile of your child, your priorities and their own views, and help you narrow down to a shortlist from the many excellent schools you may wish to consider, with a focus on choices being both ambitious and achievable. This conversation is usefully repeated early in Year 6, when more cognitive data is available to inform decisions, and you have had the chance to attend open days at your chosen shortlist.

Preparation for a senior school should be rigorous but enjoyable and should form part of a holistic education. We want our children to experience appropriate challenge rather than unhealthy pressure and to ensure that their achievements are rooted in wellbeing. Home-school partnership is essential. Parents play a vital

role in ensuring that the admissions processes are positive for children. SPCS staff are on hand to help you every step of the way.

HOW DO WE PREPARE PUPILS FOR EXAMS?

We prepare pupils for the entrance requirements of their senior schools, including the examinations they will be taking at either 11+ or 13+ (including pre-testing or scholarship where appropriate). Our SENCO supports with admission processes for pupils identified with additional learning needs.

Familiarisation with the format of exams, and work on exam technique are essential so that pupils can achieve to the best of their ability under exam conditions. We provide plenty of such practice at school from Year 5 onwards.

TUTORING

SPCS provides a broad and balanced curriculum and there is very rarely a need for external support. Exceptions might be where a child misses significant school as a result of illness or joins in later years with no foundation in a subject such as Latin or French. Occasionally, additional familiarisation with exam practice is useful to build confidence, though this should not be seen as a standard requirement beyond what is provided in school. The Deputy Head Academic, Alison Wright, will be happy to advise on any specific preparation that might be helpful: please let us know if you are intending to provide additional tutoring for your child so that we can work together to ensure this is a supportive process. While additional focus can be supportive and boost a child's confidence, the wrong focus or approach can be counterproductive and even damaging to self-esteem and performance. We do ask parents to be alert to the risk of over-preparation, and the associated pressure that it can inadvertently bring for children.

INTERVIEWS

Senior schools are not just looking for scores. Interviews play a vital part in many admissions processes and children need to be well prepared to talk about their interests, in and beyond the classroom, in an interesting way. The goal is not just to get a child into a school but to ensure that the child can make the most of the experience once they get there, and beyond, as a curious, questioning, interested and interesting lifelong learner.

We provide specific interview practice for children from Year 6 upwards, but it is important to understand that all your child's school experience is in a sense interview preparation: whether it is the experience of leadership in a sport, a subject presentation or a contribution to a year group assembly, there is a constant focus on your child's ability to perform and to do so with confidence and enjoyment.

How best can you support? In addition to the varied and stimulating projects your child will be exposed to at school, parents can support children to be ready for the interview process - and more to the point, to be an interesting, interested young person - by trips to the museum or gallery, a family volunteering project, board games, walks together and above all by regular conversation at the family meal table. No tutor can substitute for this vital everyday interaction. The good news is that the rich experience of stimulating family life is the best support you can possibly provide - and is likely to be great fun into the bargain.

The School Day

The school day begins at 8.40am with form registration. At the end of the school day, Year 4 pupils should be collected from the Cathedral Gardens entrance at 3.40pm. If they are staying on for Prep or Clubs they must be collected from the main entrance at 5pm.

You will find your child's timetable at the end of this document. Organisational skills are an important part of your child's development in Year 4, therefore please do encourage them to get things out and ready for school the next day.

Resource required	Day			
Reading book, Prep book, Prep	Everyday			
diary				
Named water bottle	Everyday			
Wear PE kit* to school	Wednesday			
Wear Games kit* to school	Monday			
Musical instrument	Check timetable on parent portal			

^{*}one kit can be used for both games and PE.

Parents' Consultation / Reports

Over the course of the year, Year 4 parents will receive feedback in a range of ways:

Autumn I Curriculum Meeting (Wednesday 11th September)

Autumn 2 Parents' Evening (Wednesday 5th November – in person)

Spring I Humanities and Science Showcase and Grade Cards

Spring 2 Parents' Evening (Date TBC)

Summer I Book Look

Summer 2 Written Report

In addition to scheduled communication, there may be times when parents, or staff, may feel a face-to-face discussion would be beneficial to discuss academic or pastoral issues. It is suggested that parents, in the first instance, email the staff concerned and then arrange a meeting at a mutually agreeable time.

Prep (Homework)

Prep will be set daily and will generally follow the timetable below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday				
Set prep 20 minutes	Maths	English	Maths	English	Rest and relaxation!				
Daily Reading 20 minutes									

The set prep tasks should be seen as an opportunity for pupils to become independent learners and thinkers. We understand that support and guidance will sometimes be required, but hope throughout the year these skills will develop.

All prep will be set in the Prep Book, with the exception of Mathletics on Wednesdays. Prep should be handed in the morning after it is set, so that it can be marked.

Reading Prep

All pupils are expected to read for 20 minutes every night. Many children will still benefit from reading aloud to an adult. If you would like some guidance as to what level of support you should be providing, please speak to your child's form teacher. A suggested Year 3 and 4 reading list is available on the parent portal and form teachers are always happy to advise.

We ask parents to support us with prep by:

- Making it clear that they value prep and support the school in explaining how it can help their child's learning.
- Praising and encouraging their children to take pride in their prep and by taking an interest in their work.
- If prep is done at home, by providing a peaceful place, free from distractions, where their children can concentrate on their work.
- Ensuring that their child spends an appropriate amount of time on prep.
- Informing the teachers via e-mail if your child has struggled with their prep or needed an unusual amount of help. The resident staff will liaise with us if there is any problem with a chorister's prep.

4KP Timetable

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Monday	Form	Games				Spel	ling		Scien	nce	Mental Maths		TPR
Tuesday	Form	Handwriting	English		Maths	PS	HE		ICT		Humanities		French
Wednesday	Form	Maths			English	Dai	nce	Lunch	Humar	nities	P.E.	Break	Form Time
Thursday	Form	English		Break	Art		Maths		Music		Maths		Library
Friday	Form		Maths		Drama	Eng	lish		Handwriting	Hur	manities		Form Time

4TN Timetable

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Year 4 - Curriculum Overview

Please note that the information given is only a general guide to the material covered in the year. The pace and order of delivery of the curriculum is constantly monitored by the teaching staff in every subject and will be adjusted to match the requirements of the pupils.

Subject	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term						
- Sabject		l Grammar will be taught throu	1						
	texts. We will use a range of engaging picture books and novels – often linked with our IPC unit – to capture the imagination of the children and provide context and purpose								
	C ac to captar c are	for writing.	provide context and parpose						
	Over the course of the ye	ear, we will study the features of text:	of many genres and styles of						
	De	scriptions of settings and chara							
	_	Diary entries and monologue							
English	Ext	cracts of narrative including dia	logue						
		Newspaper Reports							
		Comparative writing							
		Persuasive advertisements							
		Formal and informal letters							
	Instructional texts								
	Non-chronological reports								
	Playscripts								
	Poetry								
	Reading comprehension skills will be taught in weekly sessions								
	Reading comprehension skills will be taught in weekly sessions. We will use a range of engaging texts to apply our developing skills of retrieval and								
	vve will use a range of er	inference.	loping skins of Feti leval and						
	Number	Space, Shape & Measure	Problem Solving & Data						
	Place value of numbers	Estimating, comparing,	Handling						
	Comparing and ordering	rounding units of measure	Solve problems and reason						
	numbers	Converting between units	mathematically						
	Mental methods for	of measure	Data: tables, bar charts,						
	addition and subtraction	Reading scales	time graphs and pictograms						
N4 .1	Written methods for the	Angles							
Maths	four operations	2D shapes							
(all three strands	Multiplication and division	Perimeter and area							
will be covered	facts	Symmetry							
throughout the	Fractions of numbers	Reflection							
year)	Adding and subtracting	Translating shapes							
	fractions	Finding and plotting							
	Decimals	coordinates							
	Rounding	Telling the time: 12- and 24-							
	Estimating and checking	hour clock							
	Negative numbers	Money							

Humanities

History & Geography

Vanishing Rainforests

In Vanishing Rainforests, we will be learning about how diverse, wonderful and unique our rainforests are as well as what we need to do to ensure their survival. Did you know that rainforests once covered 14% of our world's surface? Now sadly they cover between 3-4% of the world. Why are they vanishing? During the unit, you will need to be geographers, scientists including being botanists who explore the plant world to find out the answers to critical real-life problems. If we don't act soon it could be too late!

Temples, Tombs and Treasures

We will be learning about who the first Ancient civilisations were, where they settled in the world and why they chose that particular place. We will look at how these civilisations grew rapidly and lasted for thousands of years. We will explore what their family life was like, how they communicated their life, their religion, traditions and beliefs, who ruled these civilisations, their tombs- how they were built, why they were built and the process of making a mummy! We will investigate the treasures and paintings left behind in these tombs and how this can tell us about life in the past. We will look at their stories and retell these stories with music and compare life in the past to life today. We will need to be historians, artists, geographers and

Chocolate

In this unit, we will be learning about something that most of us are familiar with - chocolate! We will be learning all about the impact that chocolate has had on many people's lives for hundreds of years. We will need to be geographers as we find out where and how chocolate is grown and processed, historians as we find out how chocolate made its way across the world, and scientists and designers as we create our own chocolate bars! Does chocolate have a positive or negative impact on the lives of many people today?

Making Waves

Sound and light are all around us - from the sound of thunder and the flash of lightning in a storm, to a mobile phone ringing and flashing when someone calls us. We are surrounded by lights and sounds. But what is sound? How are sounds made? How do we see and hear? And why do we see lightning before we hear the thunder? We will need to be scientists. musicians and designers to find out all about light and sound waves.

Let's Plant It

musicians.

In this unit we will need to be 'botanists', a special kind of scientist who studies plants. We will be learning all about plants and how they grow. Plants live all over the world and without plants humans and animals would not be able to live.

Shake It

We will be learning about solids, liquids and gases and how things can change state. We will need to be scientists to investigate the chemistry of some cooking and preparation processes. We will use our knowledge to make butter, cheese, and milkshakes. What has cooking got to do with science? Do you have any idea of how to make butter?

Science

Art	Seascape Big Wave Pupils will learn about and revise their painting skills. They will further their brush skills and understanding of colour. They will look at the work of a range of artists including Hokusai and Maggie Hambling and learn different ways of representing the sea and waves. Pupils will experiment in a range of media to produce a big mixed media final piece	African pot Pupils will study the patterns and motifs found in African Art. They will extend their drawing skills and revise observational skills from last year. They will create a clay pot which will involve embellishing/ Sgraffito using new tools and techniques	Matisse collage Pupils will draw fruit and vegetables in different media. They will study the collage work of Henry Matisse and create their own cut out collage.
Computing	Interactive Quiz: The pupils will design an interactive online quiz focused on a particular theme. They will explore different question formats and will plan, develop, and assess their quiz based on clearly defined evaluation criteria. E-Safety: The pupils will explore various kinds of personal information. They will recognise that certain types of personal information need to remain confidential. They will also learn that pictures can be shared online countless times. Furthermore, they will learn the importance of using the internet in a safe and responsible way.	Scratch Programming: The pupils will program a Scratch game that includes keyboard inputs, conditions and variables. The pupils will learn how to debug errors in their program and use a range of coding blocks to develop an exciting multiplayer game. Net Searching: The pupils will embark on a comprehensive study of effective net searching techniques, delving into the vast world of online information retrieval. They will explore various strategies to refine their search queries, utilising advanced search operators and filters to locate accurate and relevant information efficiently.	Publishing Software: The pupils will create a visually captivating poster using specialised publishing software, allowing them to refine their digital skills through advanced design features and tools.
French	Je me présente Count to 20. Say name and age. Say hello and goodbye, then ask how somebody is feeling and answer how they are feeling. Tell where they live, their nationality and understand	Les vêtements Repeat and recognise the vocabulary for a variety of clothes in French. Use the appropriate genders and articles for these clothes. Use the verb porter in French with increasing confidence. Say what they	La météo Repeat and recognise the vocabulary for weather in French. Ask and say what the weather is like today. Create a French weather map. Describe the weather in different regions of

	basic gender agreement rules. As-tu un animal? Repeat, recognise and attempt to spell the eight nouns (including the correct article for each) for pets in French. Tell somebody in French if they have or do not have a pet. Ask somebody else in French if they have a pet. Tell somebody in French the name of their pet. Attempt to create a longer phrase using the conjunctions et ("and") or mais ("but")	wear in different weather/situations. Describe clothes in terms of their colour and apply adjectival agreement. Use the possessives with increased accuracy Pâques Lean vocabulary and different traditions in the French speaking world.	France using a weather map with symbols.
Theology, Philosophy and Religion (TPR)	Buddhism The children will explore the origins of Buddhism, discover significant places associated with the religion, and learn about important festivals celebrated by Buddhists. They will also gain an understanding of key symbols, the sacred texts, and the core beliefs that shape Buddhist practice.	Introduction to Philosophy In this unit, children will be introduced to philosophy by exploring big questions about life, right and wrong, and how we understand the world around us. Through stories, discussions, and fun activities, they'll learn to think carefully, listen to others, and share their own ideas.	Sikhi This unit gives an overview of Sikhi, focusing on its origins, core beliefs, festivals, special places. Further they will explore the different holy books and identify key Sikh symbols and understand their meanings.
Drama	Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid: Acting Basics We begin with physical theatre, using mime, exaggerated movement, and slapstick-style action to explore space, expression, and clear communication through the body. Students then work with extracts from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, learning to set scenes, build action, and explore character relationships through voice, movement, and expression. They	The Time Machine Students build a "time machine" through drama games, sound, and movement, using imagination to create and explore new worlds. They first travel to a distant planet, then journey through different historical periods chosen by the class. Using observation and communication skills, they bring these eras to life through sound, movement, and improvisation. The project then focuses on Ancient Egypt, drawing on class learning to build a	Year 4 Performance: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Sitting alongside the students' classwork studying the play text, we work towards a performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Students develop characters and bring the world of the play to life, following the journeys of Charlie, Willy Wonka, and the other famous figures in the story. They learn and rehearse scripted lines, use voice and movement to embody character, and work

detailed world and

experience life within it.

collaboratively in pairs,

groups, and as a full

consider character

objectives and decisions,

what happens before and after a scene, and the impact of location, atmosphere, and genre. By experimenting with styles such as action, horror, and sentimental, students discover how performance choices affect meaning.

Learning Focus

Build confidence in acting and storytelling. Use body, voice, and movement to communicate character and emotion. Develop teamwork and creativity in scene work. Explore objectives, relationships, and atmosphere in performance. Experiment with genre and style to shape dramatic meaning

Scripts for Fun

Exploring a range of action based scripts the students develop their though process.

Vocal Development

Students learn develop vocal warm-up exercise focusing on breath, projection, and articulation. Voice work is applied to poetry and descriptive passages, exploring imagery and content through performance.

Learning:

Enhance vocal skills and expressive abilities. Understand how to convey emotions and meaning through voice and communicate to a listener.

Live at SPCS!

Details coming soon!

Finally, students design their own imagined societies, considering elements such as food, wealth, homes, and security, and presenting these worlds through drama.

Learning Focus

Create and explore worlds using imagination, sound, and movement
Develop observation and communication skills
Connect drama to historical knowledge (e.g. Ancient Egypt)

Use creativity to design and perform original imagined societies

Year 4 Drama – Spring Term (Part 2) Coming to England – The Story of Floella Benjamin and the Windrush Generation

Students learn about the historical context of Floella Benjamin's story and the Windrush generation. Through movement, physicality, and empathy, they create scenes that reflect character experiences, exploring mood and atmosphere, and how these can be shaped and altered in performance.

Learning Focus

Understand the historical and cultural context of the Windrush generation
Use empathy to explore and express lived experiences through drama Develop physicality and movement to communicate character and story
Explore and control mood and atmosphere in performance

ensemble. The project also explores atmosphere, staging, and transitions, helping students to see how scenes connect to form a complete performance. This term consolidates all the core drama skills: imagination, characterisation, voice, movement, teamwork, and stagecraft. It culminates in a joyful performance shared with parents.

Learning Focus

Develop fully embodied characters through voice, movement, and expression Build confidence in learning and performing scripted text

Work as an ensemble, listening and responding to others on stage Explore staging, atmosphere, and transitions to create a complete performance Experience the excitement and achievement of live performance before an audience

	Grade I theory	Grade I theory	Grade I theory
Music	Traditional Songs from America, Britain and Europe Theory: Notes of the treble Time signatures Ties and slurs Dotted rhythms Intervals Sharps and flats Class singing: How Humans Work – the physiology of singing Unison songs from different countries Singing in other European languages	The Sound of Music Theory: Major scales: C, G, D, F Tonic triads Key signatures Class singing: 2-part harmony songs The Sound of Music Singing intervals Aural: ABRSM aural exercises	West African Drumming Music of West Africa (including djembe drumming - connects to grade I theory 'answering rhythms') Theory: Answering rhythms Grade I revision and certificate Class Singing: Sansa Kroma (Ghana) Yayalo (Togo) Do do ki do (Cameroon) Aural: ABRSM aural exercises
PSHE	Unit I: Me and My Relationships Healthy relationships Listening to feelings Bullying Assertive skills Unit 2: Valuing Difference Recognising and celebrating difference (including religions and cultural difference) Understanding and challenging stereotypes	 Unit 3: Keeping Safe Managing risk Understanding the norms of drug use (cigarette and alcohol use) Influences Online safety Unit 4: Rights and Respect Making a difference (different ways of helping others or the environment) Media influence Decisions about spending money 	 Unit 5: Being my Best Having choices and making decisions about my health Taking care of my environment My skills and interests Unit 6: Growing and Changing Body changes during puberty Managing difficult feelings Relationships including marriage
PE/ Games	Invasion Games Engaging in competitive situations and improving ability to communicate and co-operate effectively with others. Football / Netball / Tag Rugby	Tag Rugby Develop simple tactics for attacking and defending. Hockey Development of sports specific skills. Improve knowledge and understand of rules and tactics	Athletics Focus on technique in different track and field events. Kwik Cricket Improve timing, hand-eye co-ordination and reaction time.

Davidanment of anome	
Development of sports	
specific skills in different	
positions on the pitch.	
Fitness Testing	
Carrying out testing	
procedures to measure	
different components of	
fitness and comparing data	
to previous year.	

Contact Details

4TN

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