



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school after what I hope has been a fantastic break. I trust the children have had a wonderful rest and are ready for the excitement and challenges of Year 4. Mrs Dancer, Mrs Snow, Mrs Merry and I are truly thrilled to be guiding your children through the adventures of Year 4!

The children have already told me lots of their personal interests and favourite subjects as well as areas they wish to improve in and we will do our very best to ensure that they achieve their goals and continue to develop a love for learning!

Here is a summary of the work we will be covering during Terms 1 and 2.

In English we will be studying many memorable texts such as; *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate Di Camillo; *Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis; plus many more. I understand that many children are eager to read the upcoming text before we read them in class, however, please refrain from doing so, where possible, to avoid diminishing the curiosity, anticipation and prediction when we study them in class. We will be using texts, such as these, to inspire written work after having the opportunity to explore them using spoken language, hot seating and drama. Written tasks will focus on developing spelling, punctuation and grammar within writing genres that include recounts, narratives, diaries, letters, newspaper reports, non-fiction reports, information texts and poems, along with a variety of comprehension activities. During the Information Session this week, you will receive an outline of the Year 4 expectation in terms of writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

In Mathematics, we will be developing concepts to embed and revise learning from Year 3, as well as learning new and challenging concepts. We will continue to develop their knowledge of basic number skills such as ordering, interpreting number patterns and place value to 1000 and beyond. This will support their understanding of the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division which we will refine to develop efficient written and mental methods. Your support by providing real life experience of telling the time, fractions and using money is invaluable and will help to consolidate learning in class. Alongside this, quick recall of times tables continues to be fundamental. We will, of course revise the rapid recall of the 3, 4 and 8 times, but our focus will be learning the 6, 7 and 9 tables (up to 12 times). Nationally, it is an end of Year 4 expectation that children are confident with their times table up to 12x12. We will be focusing on times tables daily in the class but this is something that, with your support, regularly practising at home, would be extremely beneficial to your child's success and confidence in many mathematical concepts. You will soon be receiving the 'Maths Matters' booklet which will outline the Year 4 maths objectives and games that can help to develop your child's maths skills at home. In addition to this, homework will sometimes include 'The Parent Factor' tasks. The aim of these maths based activities are to encourage children to use their mathematical skills in the real world and many of these will generate mathematical discussions and hopefully lots of fun too.

In Science, during Term 1 and 2, we will be learning about sound. We will learn how sound is made and explore how the pitch of a sound can be changed. Pattern finding and explaining reasoning after a range of investigations and fair test will play a vital part in consolidating our knowledge.

In History we will be learning about the Romans. During Term 1 we will be learning about the Roman Empire; how it began and evolved and what life would have been like in ancient Rome. During Term 2 we will extend our learning to the Roman invasion of Britain; the revolt and the Roman legacy that influences our lives today.

In Computing we will become artists. We will study a range of artists whose work was inspired by tessellation. We will use programs such as Inkscape and Scratch to use I.T. to create our own tessellation art.

In Art and Design we will enhance our Roman learning by exploring Roman art, particularly mosaics. We will learn about the main patterns and motifs that were popular with wealthy Romans and replicate this with our own mosaic art.

During Term 2, our Design and Technology topic will involve studying a range of pop up and lever mechanism used within published books. We will learn how to construct box fold, slider, rotator and simple lever mechanisms before applying this to design our own pop up creations.

In Music the children are thrilled about the prospect of receiving tuition to learn the violin through the year. I am sure you are just as excited as I am to hear the progress they will make at learning this amazing new skill.

In PSHE we will be looking at our topic of healthy, positive relationships and learning about the responsibilities we have in order to develop and maintain them. We will learn about assertive, aggressive and passive communication and identify which way helps to promote good relationships. We will discuss the importance of inclusive behaviour and how to identify and act if someone is being excluded.

In French we will continue with the Tout le Monde program. During Term 1 and 2 we will revise our knowledge of greetings, colours, numbers and parts of the body before continuing to expand their language skill further.

In Religious Education we will be learning what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today. As part of our topic, we will explore how Hindus show their faith within their families. We will learn about key Hindu beliefs, and how these are expressed in thoughts and actions. We will also think about what it is like being a Hindu in Britain today.

At present, Physical Education will be on Mondays and Wednesdays and will include an outdoor session, so please ensure that your child has suitable kit for when it is cold – tracksuit bottoms and sweat shirt, ideally navy. Come rain or shine we do go outside so please ensure during these colder terms that your child has appropriate waterproof outdoor clothing. A pair of shorts will also be needed for indoor PE of dance or gym. Our PE days can change so please ensure that your child has their kit in school every day.

## Homework

For your information, the children's homework timetable will be as follows –

| Day       | Activity  | Due in   |
|-----------|---|--|
| Monday    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed.</li> <li>A maths, English or topic based task, lasting up to 40 minutes.</li> <li>Handwriting that has not been completed in class.</li> </ul> | Reading records checked daily<br><br>Next Monday<br>Thursday |
| Tuesday   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed.</li> </ul>   |  |
| Wednesday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed.</li> <li>Children to complete their spelling contract work and practise their spellings</li> </ul>   | Thursday   |
| Thursday  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed.</li> <li>Spelling test in class today! Spelling contracts given in.</li> </ul>   |  |
| Friday    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read for at least 15 minutes to an adult and have their Reading Record Book signed.</li> <li>New spellings given. Spelling contract tasks.</li> </ul>  | Spellings tested each Thursday                               |

Homework is always based upon concepts introduced and practised in class, however, should your child experience any problems or difficulties with their homework, please encourage them to tell me and I will happily explain it again and if necessary help them to complete it.

You will find a list of activities that will help your child to learn their spelling words in the front of your child's Spelling Contract book. They will have time in school to complete some of the tasks as 'early morning work' but will need to continue with them at home to ensure that all tasks are complete by Thursday. In addition, they should be practicing their spellings which will be tested each Thursday. I understand that some children have a busy schedule with after school clubs and activities, but home learning plays a key role in their success. Please continue to support and encourage your child to complete their homework and read school or home books at least 5 times a week. Reading continues to be a key priority in Year 4 and with this in mind the school based 'Rainbow Reading Challenge' will continue. This is to read daily with an adult for 10 to 15 minutes. It is so important that even when children can read relatively fluently, they are still heard by an adult to ensure their understanding of the text and language acquisition is constantly improving. So many children were

proud recipients of Reading Reward certificates and even a book prize last year. I hope even more children will reach this goal this year.

Year 4 are also fortunate to continue to have access to *Mathletics*. *Mathletics* is an invaluable and fun resource to support your child to develop and enhance their maths skills. Where possible please encourage your child to use this program as regularly as they can, as the games and activities all link closely to our **Mathematics** curriculum and will serve to enhance your child's understanding of maths concepts further.

I am sure you can see we have two very action packed terms ahead, but as always, I would like to reiterate that your continued encouragement and support is vital to your child's success. School and home should be a partnership working together to support your child in learning and life to maximise their success. Therefore should you or your child have any worries or issues that might help us to support your child further, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am confident that we will have a fantastic year! I look forward to seeing you all at the Year 4 Information Session on Thursday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Joshua, Mrs Dancer and Mrs Snow