



September 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to Class 4! I am very much looking forward to working with your children and having a year full of exciting opportunities. After an uncertain and challenging few months, a large part of our focus for the start of this year will be around our personal well-being and revisiting areas of learning that the children may be less confident with.

As always, we will be working on developing a positive growth mindset, being independent learners and working hard to achieve their goals, whatever they may be. I have no doubt that, with our School Values in mind, great achievements and progress will be made throughout the year in all areas of the curriculum and wider school life.

Below is an outline of key information that will be needed for this first school term.

Reading

Reading is, as always, an important focus for us. Children should read **four times a week at least**. Your child can write in their Home/School Diary when they read, but it must be signed by an adult at home every week. I will be taking diaries in on a **Wednesday morning** to check reading is happening. Please ensure that your child has their reading book and Home/School Diary with them **every day**.

Remember, a book is something to experience and enjoy and I love to hear about the different books that your children are reading.

Homework

Homework will be given to the children **every Thursday** to be completed for the **following Monday**, meaning that the children will have almost a full week to complete it. Homework tasks should take up to 30 minutes and will normally be literacy or numeracy based with, occasionally, links to the wider curriculum. If it is taking longer or your child has needed additional support from you to complete it, please let me know by adding a note under the piece of work.

Times tables

As you may or may not be aware the government has introduced a new online multiplication assessment for Year 4 which consists of 25 questions and each question has to be answered within 6 seconds. With this in mind, children will be sent home with an additional piece of homework to support them with learning their times tables and we will be working with the children on multiplication in school in order to boost their fluency and confidence. The assessment will take place in the summer term and further details will be sent out nearer the time. **We have put a link to a free online version on the Class 4 page of the school website. Please encourage your children to complete this at least once a week to help them to become familiar with the time constraints and the mixture of times tables.**

If your child is unable to complete their homework due to unforeseen circumstances, then please do send them in with a note. Homework is given to extend children's learning from the classroom, so it is important that it is completed.

Spellings

Spellings will be given out **every Thursday** and a spelling test will be carried out the **following Thursday**. The number of words will start at 15 for the vast majority of children, before increasing to 20. Children are expected to practise their spellings regularly. They can use the sheets to practise or find other exciting ways to learn. Spellings will be sent home in their books alongside that week's homework.

PE

Class 4 will be taking part in athletics and skills based sessions this half term on **Tuesday** and **Friday** respectively. Please ensure that your child has school PE kit on these days. As athletics will be outside (weather permitting), tracksuit bottoms and top are advisable. Please make sure that girls come to school with hair tied back on PE days, or have a bobble available so that they can tie it back themselves. Children will not be permitted to wear jewellery during PE lessons so please ensure that your child can remove any earrings.

Book show and tell

Every week I will be choosing 5 children to share a book with the class. This can be a favourite book from home or a school reading book that they would like to recommend to their friends. The children will be encouraged to talk about the book, explain why they enjoyed it, who their favourite characters were and a brief outline of the story.

If you have any concerns or questions about anything please feel free to contact the school office to make an appointment or write a note into the home school diary. If you do this, please ensure you let your child know that they need to hand it in to me. I am really looking forward to meeting you all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Hartwright