Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome your son/ daughter to Year 4. Below is a detailed guide about how we do things in Year 4. We hope that you find it helpful.

Teachers: Mrs O’Neill (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

 Mrs Strain (Wednesday)

Teaching Assistant: Miss Dewdney

**Homework**

Reading

Year 4 children are expected to read **every night** and put their reading books in the Reading Book Box on Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday. This allows us to replace finished books and to monitor children’s home reading. Children should bring their home school reading books and diaries into school every day.

Please encourage your child to read their home school reading book alongside their favourite authors. The home school reading books expose children to a wide range of genres, knowledge and vocabulary.

Times Tables

In Year 4 we expect all children to access Times Table Rock stars as much as possible; using their own username and password. Regular practice of multiplication and division facts will have a positive impact on your child’s progress in maths. Teachers can log on to the Times Table Rock Stars Website and monitor children’s play and progress. Your child will have a weekly Times Table Test as part of Friday’s Maths lesson.

This year we will have a Times Table Rock Stars Hall of Fame in our classroom so that we can share and celebrate progress. We understand that children will be starting Year 4 with different Rock Star status’ and that is fine. Please encourage your child to practise regularly even if they find it difficult at first. As the children progress from Wannabe to Rock Legend they will receive certificates in our weekly Celebration Assemblies.

Multiplication Table Check

From the 2019/20 academic year onwards, all state-funded maintained schools and academies (including free schools) in England will be required to administer an online multiplication tables check (MTC) to year 4 pupils.

The National Curriculum specifies that pupils should be taught to recall the multiplication tables up to and including 12 × 12 by the end of year 4.

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.

Schools will have a 3-week window to administer the MTC. This is likely to take place in June, although dates have not been published yet.

31 Year 4 pupils took part in the 2019 national voluntary pilot. They had to answer 25 random multiplication times tables. Their results looked like this:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Score  | Number of pupils |
| 20-25 | 13 |
| 14-19 | 14 |
| 9-13 | 3 |
| 4-8 | 1 |
| 0-4 | 0 |

Much of last year’s success was down to the children’s commitment to TT Rock Stars. This year it is our aim to improve on last year’s results.

Homework and Handwriting Folders

Children will bring their homework and handwriting folders home on Friday. (Please take out the spelling list before returning the folder). Homework must be returned by Monday.

Spellings

Children will be given weekly spellings to learn, taken from the Year 4 Programme of Study; as well as subject specific words. When necessary spellings will be differentiated so that all children can access a Weekly Spelling Test. Children will receive certificates for achieving full marks. The test will be part of Friday’s Literacy lesson.

Maths/ Literacy/ Science/ Learning Project: Children will have **one** written piece of homework per week either Maths, Literacy, Science or a piece based on their Learning Project.

Handwriting

In addition, children may have one piece of handwriting to complete.

*When homework is incomplete, and no reason given, we would expect the children to give up 10 minutes of their lunch time to catch up.*

Educational Visits

In Year 4 we aim to take the class on three Educational Visits. The first is Norton Priory which will take place during the first term. During this visit we learn about what life was like during World War 2.

The second visit is to the Museum of Science and Industry, usually in May; and the third visit is to Speke Hall that takes place in July. (Visits are subject to change).

Learning Projects

Autumn Term will be spent learning about World War 2 with a focus on History, however, we intend to make cross curricular links where relevant for example: building electrical circuits to learn about communication during the war, children will learn aspects of Geography as they discover who the allies and axis were, children will also learn about rationing through maths and will use poppies as a stimulus for Art lessons.

Class Read’s

This half term we will be reading The one and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate. This supports this half term’s literacy texts.

Next term we will be reading Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. This is an historical novel set in World War 2. The story links perfectly with our first Learning Project.

Children are welcome to bring a copy from home if they wish to read along.

Community Gardening Project

We are fortunate to have strong links with our local Fire Station. In Year 4 children are invited throughout the year to tend to the gardening boxes. Potting, planting, weeding and harvesting. This also ties in nicely with this term’s Learning Project when we think about ‘Dig for Victory!’.

Physical Education

PE has moved to Monday. Multi-flex will continue to deliver high quality lessons. Children must bring their PE kits at the beginning of each week. Your child will come to school and go home in their PE Kits on Thursday.

Modern Foreign Languages

Children will continue to learn French in Year 4.

Asthma & Allergies

If your child requires an inhaler, please ensure that they leave one in school (please check the expiry date).

If your child has any allergies that school do not know about, please let us know.

Rewards and Sanctions

In Year 4 we use Class Dojo to reward positive behaviour every day.

This is an app that teachers and support staff can use to consistently reward pupils throughout the day for demonstrating specific skills and values. It can be tailored to meet the needs of any class. This year children will be rewarded for independence, teamwork, working hard, helping others as well as Sports Superstar and French Superstar. Specific skills and values are subject to change depending on class need.



Children are rewarded instantly and collect Dojos throughout the day. Each day, the child with the most Dojos will be given a postcard to take home. They may choose their own reward. The rewards have been generated by the children and include seat pass, pen permission or even choosing a friend to play indoors with on a chosen activity. Dojos are reset weekly.

This system aims to complement other behaviour rewards, such as Headteacher Awards, House Points, Captain’s Table, postcards home, sticker charts; as well as sanctions such as, Restoration Meetings, Time Out and Behaviour Sheets.

If we are required to complete a Behaviour sheet due to unacceptable behaviour we will endeavour to inform you as soon as possible either personally at the end of the day or via a telephone call. We really value you your support when it comes to managing behaviour.

We are really looking forward to the year ahead. If you have any concerns throughout the year, please don’t hesitate to come and talk to us. ‘Every problem has a solution!’

**Swimming**

Children will have weekly swimming lessons every Wednesday for this half term. Swimming will take place at Brookvale Leisure Centre. Children will be picked up at 10.30am and will return to school in time for lunch.

We hope this helps to welcome your child into our class and we hope to welcome you into our classroom in the near future. In the meantime please keep in touch if you have any concerns.

Mrs O’Neill, Mrs Strain and Miss Dewdney.