

**September 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to start by saying a massive well done to all the Year 4 children. They have re-entered the classroom after their time off with such enthusiasm and with gorgeous smiles on their faces. Our main aim is to create an environment where the children feel completely safe and happy and to minimise any worries that the children may have about returning to school and starting a new year group. We are very excited to start and to get some happy normality back for everyone too!

In our classroom will be Mrs Hall (Mon-Weds) and Mrs Plant (Thursday-Friday). There will also be Mrs Newton and Miss Deacon. We have some super exciting topics planned for the year ahead, including learning all about the Ancient Greeks, exploring fantasy stories, as well as some fabulous art work, investigating electricity circuits and coding! A separate letter (A Knowledge Planner), containing the learning that will be taking place and the aims we have for the children by the end of this period will also be sent out.

In this letter, we would like to inform you of some of the protocols and things that will be taking place in Year 4:

* Children will enter and exit the classroom via the Year 4 door. The main school gate will open at 8.50am, where we are inviting parents to operate the 'drop and go' system outlined within Mrs Barker's letter. The children finish school at 3.20pm.
* If different from normal, please make school aware of who will be collecting your child at the end of the day. We may have to question who is picking up your child if we don’t recognise them or haven’t been made aware of a change in plan, please note we are only doing this to keep your children safe and ensure they are going home with the correct adult.
* We have two PE sessions timetabled in for each week. We ask that P.E kits remain in school every day, with each item clearly labelled with their name. These will be sent home each half term to be washed. As outdoor P.E. is part of the curriculum, it would be a good idea for the children to have jogging pants/leggings and a sweatshirt (blue or black) for the colder weather.
* Homework will initially focus on children’s spellings, times tables and reading. We feel if the children concentrate their efforts on these three things it will be the most beneficial to their learning in school. For now we will be setting no other homework to allow a drive and focus on these three things. However, due to the success of Seesaw, some homework may be incorporated through that. Homework will be set on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday. Please could any families that do not have access to the Internet inform the school office, and we will ensure homework is sent home in an alternative way.
* Any login or password details that the children need to access resources online at home, will be sent home shortly.
* In addition to reading books, the children will be able to choose a book from the topic book area. These will be changed every Monday.
* Children will have a spelling list to learn each week for a spelling test on Friday. This will be sent home the Friday before, giving the children a full week to prepare. The focus will be on children achieving ‘personal best’ scores each week. The spelling lists will cover words from the Year 4 key words list that is provided by the government as well as the Year 4 spelling rules. The learning will be heavily guided by The Spelling Frame. This is available online and we ask the children to access this at home where possible to support them in learning their spellings. From time to time, spelling lists will also cover some grammar objectives. <https://spellingframe.co.uk/>
* To support our lessons and aid your children’s understanding, we will be showing videos, some of which may be rated PG. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.
* Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day, filled up, with their names clearly labelled on them. They will bring them home each day. Please may we ask children only have water in their bottles as they are not allowed anything else in class.
* We love to celebrate your child’s birthdays in class and if you do wish to bring in sweets for your child to share, please may we remind you that we are not able to give out lollypops or anything that contains nuts.
* We would like to invite the children to bring in a colouring book, mindfulness colouring book or activity book to use during Wet Playtimes. Please could this be sent into school by Friday 24th September.
* If you do have any questions or concerns, at any point throughout the year, please do not hesitate to ring the office, who will make a telephone appointment with one of us.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to working alongside you this year.

***Mrs Hall and Mrs Plant***