

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Year 4 and to introduce ourselves. It has been a pleasure to see how positively your children have returned to school and adapted to the routines of a new year group. We really appreciate your support and hope that you will find some of the information below useful, particularly to share with your child.

Topics covered this year

Autumn Term 1 – We are Egyptologists: *What can we find out about Ancient Egypt from what has survived?*

Autumn Term 2 – We are Oceanographers: *Why do our seas and oceans matter so much?*

Spring Term – We are Researchers: *How was life different, especially for children, in Victorian Britain?*

Summer Term 1- We are Volcanologists: *How do volcanoes affect the lives of people living near them?*

Summer Term 2 – We are Electricians: *How can we create an electrical circuit?*

PE days and Swimming in Year 4

Outside games will take place on Tuesdays throughout the year and indoor PE on Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child wears their full P.E. kit to school on PE days.

In the spring term, Year 4 children will be swimming every day for three weeks at the Life Centre from Monday 24th February until Friday 14th March 2025. We will send out additional information regarding this closer to the time.

Homework and expectations

Reading – supporting your child's reading at home is essential to their development and learning. We recommend that children read aloud to you on a daily basis and ask that you record their reading a minimum of three times on BoomReader. This will be monitored and celebrated in school to encourage children to read regularly at home. On BoomReader, you or your child may also wish to record a comment about your child's reading and we always welcome any feedback or queries you may have. Remember, children do not need to read a whole book each night, a few pages are sufficient, as 15-20 minutes is the recommended minimum time spent for reading, sharing books and discussion time.

Home Learning – Compulsory home learning tasks include learning times tables and spellings for weekly tests on Fridays. Please use Times Tables Rock Stars to help your child recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. Please note that the children have been given a new username and password to use this academic year.

Additionally, children are encouraged to complete topic-based tasks (which can be found in the home learning grid sent home) as this will help to enhance your child's engagement with and understanding of our topics and will be celebrated in school.

How to help your child at home

- Encourage your child to ensure they have everything they need for the day, such as their water bottle, snack and reading diary/ book.
- Ensure your child completes all compulsory home learning tasks by supporting them to practise their times tables and spellings and encouraging them to read regularly at home.

Other things you need to know

- In the summer term, children will undertake a multiplication check. This is an online test undertaken to check that Year 4s in England and Wales have a good level of times tables knowledge. (More information will be provided about this closer to the time.)
- Our healthy eating policy continues and all children are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle with them to school every day, and a healthy snack for break time.
- We are hoping to offer plenty of extra-curricular activities for the children and have some exciting visits and visitors planned this year.
- Thank you for your support in ensuring that your children are adhering to the uniform policy and look smart.

Other Points

- As well as attending a weekly sports club, Year 4 children have the opportunity to join the choir and/ or learn a range of musical instruments – letters have been sent home but please ask if you would like further details.
- We are not allowed to administer any medicines at all without an appropriate permission form. This can be completed at the office. We ask that children who use asthma pumps should either carry them or keep them in the classroom.

Date for drop-in to meet your child's teacher and ask any questions:

Wednesday 18th September 2024, 3:30 – 4:30pm.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes, the Year 4 Team.

