

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to Year 4! It is lovely to have the children back in school, enjoying the freedom of fewer restrictions and enjoying the September sunshine and warm weather. It's wonderful to be able to welcome parents onto the school grounds once more. We have really enjoyed the start of term together, getting to know one another, sharing news and launching the term's projects. As you probably know, our exciting new topic for this Autumn term is 'People on the Move' (Anglo-Saxons and Scots). We aim to bring this topic alive for the children by providing some stimulating 'hands on' experiences for them. We will have 'Anglo Saxon' themed days in school where the children will be able to wear their costumes (see additional homework letter) and take part in some Saxon cooking and feasting. There is so much to look forward to!



Thank you for clearly labelling your children's uniform items and PE kit with their name. This will really help the children stay organised and keep items out of lost property. Please name costume items and any new items purchased throughout the year. Children are still permitted to come to school wearing their P.E kits every Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure St. Andrew's colours are worn. Water bottles need to be non-spill and non-shatter and must be taken home for washing each day.

We are really excited to announce that swimming lessons will take place at the Life Centre this term starting on the 27th September. A letter will be sent home separately to tell you more about this. The lessons last 30 minutes and take place over three weeks. They are fully funded and coach travel is provided. The class will also be learning to play the clarinet with Miss Smith, who they know from ukulele's last year.

Homework will be given out on a Friday and must be handed in no later than the following **Wednesday**. There will be a spelling test and tables test every **Wednesday**. Just a reminder that spellings should be practised over short bursts, each evening or walking to school. For homework, each spelling must be used in a sentence. As part of their weekly homework we expect children to be practising the relevant times tables or division facts at home. This is important as by the end of year 4, children are expected to be confident with all times tables up to and including the 12 times. It is quite a challenge! They will then take the Government Multiplication Tables check in June next year. Calculations will be practised on a Friday morning, mathematical fluency on a Monday and English word groups on a Tuesday. Please encourage your child to use online Mathletics as often as possible to help deepen their understanding. We will check scores weekly and give children certificates. Children will also be encouraged to use Times Tables Rockstars and Spelling Shed. We will send login reminders in homework books soon. As in all year groups, a minimum of 20 minutes reading should be completed each evening. Please support your child to do this and discuss any tricky vocabulary as well as storylines. We change books every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please do let us know if you have any concerns as soon as possible.

We are also keen to enrich the children's 'reading diet' with books chosen from class / school or home libraries, in line with their own interests. Please keep a record of 'non-scheme books' read in reading diaries, (using one box at a time as usual). This will help us to ensure that everyone is being listened to each evening to develop fluency, expression and comprehension. We are very fortunate to have the support of a familiar teacher, Miss Malein, who will work with individual children and groups across Year 3 and 4 to help accelerate their learning. Mr. Napier will also be teaching the class on alternate Thursdays.

Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any queries, please let me know as soon as possible. Either email me or pop in after school. Remember to check the school website for regular updates and pictures of events and activities too. We are very much looking forward to working together with you in this next chapter of your child's journey at St. Andrew's.

Kind regards,

Mr. Stonebridge, Mrs Eggar, Mr. Napier and Miss Malein. (The Year 4 Team)

