

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope that you had a relaxing summer break and took advantage of the quality family time that you had together. The term has started exceptionally well. The children have impressed us with their swimming skills, superb manners and good behaviour, ability to follow instructions, and their willingness to work and apply themselves to school life. It's wonderful to see their smiley faces so eager to learn. We are extremely proud of them all.

This year we are joined by a new teaching assistant, Mrs Duboisson, who will be supporting Y4 and helping the children to progress with their learning. Mrs Dean will teach on Mondays, Tuesdays and some Wednesdays and Miss Mann will take over later in the week.

Our exciting curriculum theme for this Autumn term is **'People on the Move!'**. This will focus on the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We aim to bring this theme alive for the children by creating some stimulating 'hands on' experiences for them. We will have 'Anglo Saxon' and 'Viking' themed days in school where the children will be able to wear costumes (additional homework letter to follow) and take part in some cookery, feasting and much more. We are also hoping to take the children to Escot for a day trip full of adventure. More information to follow shortly. So much to look forward to!

Children should come to school in full uniform (including black leather/leather effect shoes) every day and bring their PE kit to school each week where they can get changed when they have a PE lesson/sporting club. PE kits are to be left in school during the week, so that they can change for PE lessons. PE Kit consists of navy blue shorts, white t-shirt & black plimsolls or trainers. Tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirts may be worn outside when the weather is cold but must be in St Andrew's colours. Please ensure that all of your child's belongings (PE kit, coat, uniform, bookbag, water bottle etc) have clear name labels – this makes it much easier to get them back to you if they are misplaced.

Weekly routines:

- Homework will be given on a **Friday** and should be returned the following **Wednesday**. Spellings and number bonds or times tables will be ongoing homework activities every week. Each week, the spellings will follow a particular rule set by the Government in the National Curriculum; as you know, some words are challenging! **10 spellings, based on the Spelling Shed scheme, will be set on a Monday & tested on the following Monday.** (<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb>). Spellings will be in their homework books and activities assigned on Spelling Shed will supplement this and support the children with learning their new spellings. Using Spelling Shed is a fantastic way to learn spellings!
- PE will take place every **Monday (Mrs Dean)** and **Thursday (Miss Mann)**.
- Please make sure that your child has a **water bottle** in school – the classrooms get very warm both in the summer and winter and active brains need plenty of hydration!
- Children should read every evening for at least 20 minutes. Even though your child is becoming increasingly confident as a reader, it is still important that you share books together and talk about features of the text. Children who regularly read at home generally make excellent progress in school. We will endeavour to hear children read during whole class guided reading each week or on a 1:1 basis with a teacher, TA or volunteer. Books will be changed three times each week but we will aim to change them as often as possible. There is a box on our back shelf for the children to put their books in to be changed. As part of their weekly homework, we expect children to be practising the relevant number bonds, times tables or division facts at home. We will continue from where the children were in Y3 and each week their test will be placed in their homework book so you can see if they have moved on. Times tables / division and number bond facts are tested on **Thursday**. All children will complete the Key 21 multiplication and division facts weekly, with the aim of either improving their score each week, or speeding up the time taken to complete the test.
- It is essential that children are confident knowing all these facts 'off by heart' by the time they reach Year 5, to support the more challenging mathematical content of upper Key Stage 2. There will also be a government times tables check in June 2024.
- Short arithmetic or reasoning tests will usually take place each **Wednesday**; we will put them into homework folders so that you can see how well your child has done. Please also spend time with your child helping them to consolidate any misconceptions they might have.
- **The Y4 Class Assembly is on Wednesday 29th November at 9.10am in the school hall.**

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact either one of us by popping in. If this is not possible, feel free to send a note in with your child or an email to the school office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Many thanks,

Miss Mann, Mrs Dean and Mrs Duboisson (The Year 4 Team).

