

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to St. Andrew's! We hope you all enjoyed the festive season and were able to have a relaxing time. The children have returned to school refreshed and full of lovely memories.

It is great to be back with our Year 4 family getting excited about our new topic for the term: 'Children of the World'. This topic has a geography focus, but there are many opportunities for creative, cross-curricular learning. We plan to have themed days based around our topic. Mrs Dean will be sharing her passion for World Dance with some Latin-American and Bollywood routines. Very exciting!

If you have family abroad, or a story to share about your childhood in another country, please let us know. You may find you have already been volunteered! We are so lucky to have links all over the globe and we really want to make the most of them in this topic. We will be asking children to complete an optional homework project about a country they have links to, or would love to visit. We hope you will be able to support your child to complete this with enthusiasm. We have learnt so much from one another during these tasks in previous years and the children really enjoy sharing their work.

We will be continuing with the homework routine established last term. The expectation is that children should spend a minimum of 30 minutes each evening doing some homework. This could be reading, practising handwriting, spellings and times tables/number bonds, on Mathletics, Spelling Shed or working towards an extended piece of topic homework. Daily reading is essential. Please encourage reading aloud to develop confidence and fluency. Please remind your child to change reading books when they arrive in school in the morning. We are running a 'Reading Raffle' to encourage children to gain more tickets every time they read a book. We would love to see more children reading widely and moving up through the levels of our reading scheme as this helps them to be confident in all areas of learning. As a class, we are focusing on the skill of reading aloud with clarity and expression; a little practice at home each day will make all the difference. As you may be aware, children's participation online on Mathletics is monitored closely and engagement / improvement is celebrated when we assemble together as a whole school. Some children from Year 4 have not yet gained a certificate for achieving 1000 points in one week. This takes around half an hour in total and is expected of all children. Please remind your child to log on regularly and practise their skills. We are looking forward to seeing more Y4 names on the leaderboard. In June, Y4 children will take part in the National Multiplication Check. Our best resource to support and develop the retention of these skills is Times Tables Rockstars. A small amount of time spent each day on this will ensure key facts are remembered. Children can also use 'Hit the Button' online to focus on specific tables.

Finally, just a reminder that our PE slots are on a Monday morning and Thursday afternoon. Please ensure that P.E kits are in school all week though, just in case of a change of plan. We would also ask that all uniform and kit are clearly named.

Best wishes for an exciting and productive 2026!

Mrs Line, Mrs Dean and Mrs Maker