


Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the summer term at St. Andrew's. It has been lovely to hear about the children's happy holidays and see them returning to school full of memories and fresh enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to launch the new term with our residential to Barton Hall. We had an amazing time and it was such a joy to watch the children overcome fears, face challenges and have fun. We were very proud of them all.

Our creative curriculum theme this term is *'Our Strength Within'*, with the key question: *What does it mean to be resilient?* This new curriculum theme will have a focus on World War 2 local history and the changes in Plymouth at this time. We aim to have at least two themed days in school including a VE Day party and celebration. We hope to visit the Plymouth Museum and have a trip to Mount Edgcumbe on the ferry, at the end of term. The curriculum poster overleaf will give you an overview of the subjects taught this term and can be found on the school website too. Our class story after half term will be *Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo. It would be fantastic if you and your child could start thinking about 1940s-themed clothing that they could wear on our topic days and for our class assembly. Knitted sleeveless sweaters worn over school uniform or simple pinafores for the girls can be an effective evacuee-style costume. Keep an eye out in charity shops!

 We will be continuing to garden and grow as part of our 'Young Marketeers' project. It is wonderful to hear what the children are growing at home. Please let us know if you have any small plants we can grow on, or any produce you would like to donate. This can happen at any time, for school funds. Our main selling day at Plymouth Market is Friday 3rd July. We will need lots of home-grown produce for our stall to supplement our school garden vegetables. You are most welcome to join us around lunchtime at this event, to browse the stalls and pick up a freshly-grown bargain.

Daily Routines and Reminders

- **Clubs** will take place after school from **3.15 – 4.15pm** and will commence this week.
- Please make sure that your child has a **water bottle** in school – active brains need plenty of hydration at each break time, especially now the weather is warming up.
- **Arithmetic and reasoning papers** will usually be sent home on a Friday, so that you can see your child's score. Please spend time helping them to correct any errors, ready for the next week's test.
- **Spellings and times tables** will continue to be ongoing homework activities. Spelling tests will take place every **Monday morning** and **K21 multiplication and division facts / extension challenges** every **Thursday morning**. **TTRockstars** is a brilliant resource for learning times tables. We use this in school and we would love the children to continue to use this at home as much as possible.
- At the start of June (straight after half term) all the Year 4 children will be taking the government **Multiplication Tables Check**. On TTRockstars there is now a new section that mimics the government test, so practise on here will be of huge benefit. We would love all children in the class to achieve their 'go green' certificate for answering all the questions within 6 seconds.
- Spellings are always set on **Spelling Shed**, as well as in the yellow folders. We regularly use Spelling Shed in school but please encourage your child to use it at home too – it really does have a significant impact on many children's weekly scores. <https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb>.
- **Reading:** Encourage your child to read at home on a daily basis because children who regularly read at home generally make excellent progress. Books can be changed any time of the week – most children will change their own books.
- Please encourage your child to record their daily homework on their SMART chart. We have found that children are becoming much more independent at completing different tasks throughout the week. Children can bring in their chart from last term to celebrate with us. We love to see what they have completed at home. 😊

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

With very best wishes,

The Year 4 team: Mrs Line, Mrs Dean and Mrs Maker

