

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer break and took advantage of some quality family time and great weather. I am most excited to be joining Y4 this year in their learning journey, having briefly taught the pupils on their transition days before the summer. This year, I am joined in class by my teaching assistant, Mrs Maker, who is already familiar with Y4 routines and will be there to support the children to build upon their skills learnt in Y3. Mrs King will teach the class on alternate Thursdays for my PPA cover.

Our exciting curriculum theme for this Autumn term is 'Back to the Stone Age!'.

We aim to bring this theme alive for the children by creating some stimulating 'hands on' experiences for them. They will learn how life was back in the Stone Age through the use of role play/drama, story-telling, art, research and dance. The children will also use their DT skills to create various tools, weapons and jewellery. We will also have Stone Age themed days in school where the children will be able to wear costumes and take part in some Stone Age cookery - details of those dates will follow in due course.

Children should come to school in full, smart uniform (including black leather/leather effect shoes) every day and bring their PE kit to school each week so they can get changed when they have a PE lesson/sporting club. 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.

Y4 Residential: This has already been booked for Wed 14th April to Friday 16th April at PGL (Barton Hall) - a letter outlining costs and details to reserve your place will follow over the next couple weeks.

Many of the routines that the children have been used to previously in Y3 will remain in Y4

Routines:

- Core homework tasks include reading, spellings and times tables. These 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 each week and tested on the following Wednesday (<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb>). Spellings will be in children's 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!
- As part of their weekly core homework, we expect children to be practising their times tables or division facts at home. We will use information from their previous class and assess which times tables the children know when they enter Y4. KS2 will continue to use the *Challenge 21 Facts* times tables (example in homework books) and TTROCKSTARS is available for children to use to support the learning of their times tables. Times tables are tested on a Monday. Times tables are crucial to their learning and children are expected to know and confidently apply all those facts up to the 12 times tables, ready for the MTC check in May 2027.

- Short arithmetic tests will take place each Tuesday; we will put them into homework folders so that you can see how well your child has done. You may like to talk through errors with your child.
- 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 hear children read during guided reading each week or on a 1:1 basis with a teacher, TA or volunteer. Books will be changed twice each week but we will endeavour to change them as often as possible.
- PE will take place every Tuesday and Wednesday (Mr Napier) There is no swimming tuition this term as it has been in the past, this is scheduled for the Summer Term (dates to follow).
- 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!
- **Meet the Teacher Meeting: Monday 14th September at 3.15pm in the Y4 classroom.**
- **The Y4 Class Assembly is on Thursday 12th November at 9.05am in the school hall.**

The term has started extremely well. We have had great attendance so far. Everyone is smartly dressed, enthusiastic to work hard and well behaved in class. The children are demonstrating respect and becoming familiar with my high expectations. I am very proud of what they have already achieved.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress or well-being, then please come and see me. I am usually around before or after school, or you can call to make an appointment.

Many thanks,

Mr Napier, Mrs King & Mrs Maker

The Y4 Team