

Welcome to Year 4

I'm really pleased to say that despite the strange circumstances in which we have returned to school, we have had a wonderful start to the term so far and we look forward to a successful year with the classes. It really is great to be back.

This letter aims to give you a summary of what to expect in the curriculum this autumn. Our aim is to ensure that every child's needs are met both academically, as well as socially and emotionally. After such a long time away from 'normal' schooling, it's vitally important that we re-engage every child in the learning process, putting relationships at the heart of their experience of school. As a result, more time will be given for personal reflections and class discussion.

In the event of a return to remote learning, you will initially be provided with a three day work plan. The tasks set will be generic. After that, we will revert to the format we adopted during the extended period of remote learning, where you will receive each weeks' learning in advance, with the tasks set being as close as possible to the curriculum that we would usually focus on in class. This will all be sent to you via Teams.

The Year 4 Curriculum

The cross-curricular themes in Year 4 are:

Autumn	Conflict (with a focus on WW2)
Spring	Civilization (with a focus on the Ancient Greeks)
Summer	Change (with a focus on the River Thames)

Our theme for this term, **Conflict**, includes:

- History: World War II and the causes and impact of conflict locally, nationally and internationally
- Design and Technology: Designing and making Morse Code machines (linked to the science unit of electricity)
- Geography: Locating and plotting countries involved in WWII at different points in the conflict
- Art: collage and mixed media activities

Recommended theme books

(Please be aware that these may have upsetting scenes/themes): **Siegel** by Ann Jungman; **A Candle in the Dark** by Adele Geras; **Rose Blanche** by Ian McEwan; **My Story: Blitz** by Vince Cross; **Carrie's War** by Nina Bawden; **Goodnight Mr Tom** by Michelle Magorian.

Theme Day

- As part of our conflict topic we will have an evacuee theme day this term. Children will be asked to dress up as evacuees during this day. More information on what the children need to wear will be sent out in a home learning letter in due course.
- If you know **anyone who was alive during WW2 or who has experienced another conflict** and would be happy to be interviewed by the children, please let one of the Y4 teachers know.

Please note that further details of the Year 4 curriculum can be found on the school website.

Upcoming trips

As I'm sure you will understand, we won't be able to go some of the places we usually visit this term, such as The Imperial War Museum and HMS Belfast. However, we are hoping to arrange a visit to a local air raid shelter and the CLC (London Connected Learning Centre) and will inform you of the dates as soon as they are confirmed.

English

We are starting the year studying **The Gentle Giant** by Michael Morpurgo. We will then be completing some diary writing based on evacuation and the Second World War using a text called **The Lion and The Unicorn** by Shirley Hughes. The next text will be **Krindlekrax** by Phillip Ridley. This is a glorious text and one the children usually adore!

Maths

We follow objectives from the National Curriculum. We will be focusing on the development of the children's mental maths skills (including their multiplication and division facts), extending their understanding of place value and their calculation skills in the four operations. A detailed overview of the maths objectives covered is on our Curriculum Map on the school website.

Times Tables Challenge

On a regular basis the children will have a **times table challenge on Thursdays**. Please help your child practice what is coming up that particular week. Your child will know which times table they are currently working on and we have a monitoring task every week. Once children are secure on one times table, they move on to the next. We will continue to use Times Tables Rockstars and any new pupils will be given a login very soon. In the meantime, for those without a login, there are plenty of links on the school website learning zone to help the children practice their tables, and other areas of mental maths

Science

Our science teaching emphasises the development of children's scientific skills: planning investigations, predicting outcomes, carrying out tests, recording results and drawing conclusions. Our first science unit is about electricity, focusing on circuits and materials which conduct or insulate electricity. The BBC has good supporting games and quizzes in their KS2 Bitesize website.

Home learning

We aim for home learning to be an enjoyable, rather than a stressful experience.

- Home learning is given **out on a Friday** and collected on a **Thursday**. Home Learning will consist of one piece of home learning based on work covered in maths, English, science or theme. This year we will be asking parents to purchase a CGP Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling book. More information about this will be sent very soon.
- For some of the activities, the children will be given two weeks to complete their work. The task(s) should take no longer than 60 minutes. If at any point they are finding the work difficult or it is creating problems, please encourage them to ask for our support at school or write us a quick note in their books. It's my great belief that home learning should never cause problems at home.

Spelling

Children will be tested on a **Friday** and require their spelling folder in school to be able to do this. Please ensure that your child remembers to **bring their folder every day**. Children are also given new spellings on a **Friday**. These will follow a spelling pattern investigated in class, spellings taken from errors children are making in their own writing or practising the Year 3 and 4 spelling words.

Please note: the Y3/4 list of words is not an exhaustive list of all the words children need to learn; the weekly spellings are vitally important as well.

Reading Journals

- We ask children to record what they have been reading at home **four times a week** plus an extended entry in their reading journal. Children will be encouraged to extend their logs as the year progresses. The more you are able to read with your child, the greater the benefit will be.
- We ask children to have their reading journals with them **every day**. Children will give in their journals on set days. The day your child should hand in their reading journal has been written down on the first page.

PE

- Children will wear their PE kit to school on the day they have PE and they will stay in their kit for the day. This is a new approach and I think will help the children to have longer PE lessons.
- Outdoor PE with Mr Pashley will be on Mondays and indoor PE on Wednesdays.
- Unfortunately, Y4 won't be swimming this term at this stage. If the situation changes, we will let you know.

School uniform and labelling belongings

Please could all of your child's belongings be labelled with their name (including surname). The children were reminded in class this week to ensure that everything is labelled. Our aim is to reduce the amount of school uniform we find in lost property!

Water bottles & healthy snacks

- Every child needs a labelled water bottle. School water bottles are available from the school office. Children will bring their water bottles home every day to be washed.
- Please remember that children can bring in a healthy snack for break time. Healthy snacks only please – fruit, dried fruit, vegetables, plain rice cakes, plain biscuits, yoghurt, cheese, breadsticks, sandwich – no crisps, chocolate or sweets please.
- Please remember that we are a nut free school. We have several children with severe nut allergies. **Please ensure your children's snacks and lunch are nut free.**

Contacting Teachers

Due to the current situation with arrival and dismissal, teachers will not be able to stay and chat at the school gates at the beginning or end of the day. Therefore, please email us directly if you have an important matter to discuss.

Artist in residence

We are fortunate to have an artist in residence, Olivia Berners-Price, working on Tuesday afternoons with Year 4. She will take out a group of eight children for an hour a week over the course of each half term. All children will get an opportunity to work with her at some stage during the year.

Weekly overview

An overview of our timetable will be sent home in your child's home learning book next Friday when we set our first piece of home learning. Some children like to have them up on their bedroom doors to help them organise their week.

Key reminders

Reading Journal, reading book and spelling folders to be brought in every day. Reading journals will be handed in on the day your child reads with the teacher. This can be found on the front page of their reading journal.

Monday: Outdoor PE – PE kit to be worn into school

Tuesday:

Wednesday: Indoor PE – PE kit to be worn into school

Thursday: Home learning due in

Friday: Home learning and spellings sent home.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this. We're all looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year with your children. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information.

Best wishes,

Scott Griffin and Rhiannon Keane

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Suggested reading list –

Key Stage 2

Year 4/Year 5

Ros Asquith	Alien School Boy
Frank Cottrell Boyce	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again
Elen Caldecott	The Great Ice Cream Heist
Steve Cole	Magic Ink
Lissa Evans	Small Change for Stuart
Sally Gardner	Operation Bunny
Jessica day George	Tuesdays at the Castle
G R Gemin	Cowgirl
Jennifer Gray	Atticus Claw Breaks the Law
Sonya hartnett	The Silver Donkey
Lucy Hawking	George's Secret Key to the Universe
Eva Ibbotson	The Abominables
Erich Kastner	Emil and the Detectives
Clive King	Stig of the Dump
Tom Moorhouse	The River Singers
Helen peters	The Secret Hen House Theatre
Philip Reeve	Oliver and the Seawigs
S F Said	Varjak Paw
Francesca Simon	The Sleeping Army
William Sutcliffe	Circus of Thieves and the Raffle of Doom
Marcia Williams	Archie's War
Colin Thompson	The Second Forever
Eoin Colfer	Artemis Fowl
Kate De Camillo	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
Frank Cotterell-Boyce	Millions
Greg Rogers	Way Home
Robert Swindels	Stone Cold
Terry Pratchett	The Amazing Maurice
Terry Pratchett	Truckers
Antoine De Saint-Exuperry	The Little Prince
Lara Williamson	A Boy Called Hope
Jonathan Stroud	The Screaming Staircase
Gillian Cross	After Tomorrow
Frank Cotterell-Boyce	The Unforgotten Coat
David Almond	Kit's Wilderness
Terry Jones	The Saga of Eric the Viking
Norman Justice	The Phantom Tollbooth
Gillian Cross	Wolf
Geraldine Mc Coughrean	The Orchard Book of Greek Myths
Jenny Nimmo	The Snow Spider
Jenny Nimmo	The Chestnut Soldier

Year 3/ Year 4

David Almond
Ian Beck
Emma Barnes
Tony Bradman
Kate di Camillo
Michael Bond
Kate di Camillo
Janet Foxley
Lynn Gardner
Emily Gravett
Sally Gardner
A F Harrold
Chris Higgins
Shirley Hughes
Elizabeth Laird
Josh Lacey
Astrid Lindgren
Karen McCombie
Glenda Millard
Alex Millway
Mal Peet
Beverley Naidoo
Alex T Smith
Catherine Storr
Kate Pankhurst
Gareth Thompson
E B White
Marcia Williams
Jeanne Willis
Michael Morpurgo
Tony Bradman
Ann Fine
Terence Blacker
Paula Danzinger
Penelope Lively
Philip Ridley
Philip Ridley
Philip Ridley
Ann Fine

The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas
Tom Truehart
Wolfie
Beowulf the hero
Tale of Despereaux
Olga da Polga
Tiger Rising
Muncle Trogg
Ghastly McNasty
Little Mouse's Big Book of Beasts
The Boy with Lightning feet
Fizzbert Stump
My Funny Family
Diixie o Day: Life in the Fast Lane
The Fastest Boy in the World
The Dragonsitter
Pippi Longstocking
You, Me and Thing
The Naming of Tishkin Silk
Pigsticks and Harold
Cloud Tea Monkeys
Aesop's Fables
Claude
Polly and the Wolf
Mariella Mysteries
The Sea Swallow
Stuart Little
The Elephant's Friend
Sticky Ends
Private Peaceful
Sam the Girl Detective
Bill's New Frock
Ms. Wiz Spells Trouble
Amber Brown is not a Crayon
The Ghost of Thomas Kempe
Krindlekrax
Meteorite Spoon
Kasper in the Glitter
Flour babies