

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! This letter aims to give you a summary of what to expect in the curriculum this autumn in Year 4. Our aim, as always, is to ensure that every child's needs are met both academically, as well as socially and emotionally.

Drop off and pick up

Drop off and pick up will be from the Year 4 classroom doors. Please enter via the main entrance and take your child to their classroom door before saying your goodbyes. When you are with your child, please enter and exit the building via the ramp by the main entrance. You will need to take your child around the left side of the building via the climbing equipment. When you are without your child, please exit and enter the building via the stairs by the main entrance. There will be an adult to help during the first week. We kindly ask that the children arrive promptly at 8.45am as this is when the school day starts. The children often have activities to do in the morning when they arrive before 9.00am. This maximises their learning time at school.

Curriculum

The Year 4 curriculum is full of learning, love and laughter. You will find information about what we are teaching each term in the Year 4 [curriculum map](#). This is a helpful document to visit at the beginning of each term or half term to see what your child will be learning about. We are just finalising our new map and will put it up shortly. It will be very similar to the one that is currently up.

For more details about many of these topics, we have created [knowledge maps](#). This can help you understand what your child is learning in class and use it to discuss the topic with them. You could even create quizzes with them or ask them to present what they know.

There are many more pages on the [school website](#) which will help you understand our curriculum. These pages in particular are very helpful:

- The [Y3 and Y4 learning zone](#) has website suggestions for additional online learning opportunities
- The [mathematics page](#) discusses how we teach maths, has the mathematics knowledge maps and some top tips for supporting at home
- The [reading page](#) discusses our philosophy on the teaching of reading, phonics information, suggestions for supporting at home and book lists
- The [safeguarding page](#) has lots of information and links to support with any safeguarding needs. It also has an online **safeguarding presentation for parents and carers** of children of ages 3-13 that helps you keep children safe online at home.
- The [handwriting page](#) has videos about how we teach the children to form each letter and a workshop about how you can help at home.

Theme Day

- As part of our conflict topic we will have an evacuee theme day. 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.

Times Tables Challenge

On a regular basis the children will have a **times table challenge on Fridays**. 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

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.
- The children will be given a blue exercise book to complete their home learning activities in and the home learning letter will uploaded to Teams so please ensure you are able to access this.
- 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.

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 typically follow a spelling pattern investigated in class but can also include spellings taken from errors children are making in their own writing or practising the Year 3/4 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 will be written on the first page.

School uniform and labelling belongings

Please could all of your child's belongings be labelled with their name (including surname). The children will be 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! We also kindly ask that the children do not wear jewellery except religious symbols or simple stud earrings.

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.**
- As a healthy school, we would also stress that if your child has a birthday during term time please can we encourage the purchasing of a birthday book for the class and not sweets.

Contacting Teachers

Teachers are around at the end of the day (except for Tuesdays due to a staff meeting) and are very happy to talk with you! If you require more than a few minutes, please arrange an appointment directly with us via email.

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.

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,

The Year 4 Team