

September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and welcome to Year 4!

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are as excited as I am about having the children in school for, what will hopefully be, a great year. I know that when returning to school and starting in a new year group, some of your children may have been feeling nervous. I want to reassure you that your children seem to have settled into the new class really well. Our first few days will be full of lots of 'getting to know you' activities, class discussions and hopefully lots of smiles and laughter. I have been pleased by the positive attitudes to learning displayed so far and I hope that the children are now looking forward to the rest of the year– it's going to be brilliant!



As the children move through the school and become more independent, there are often fewer informal opportunities for teachers to talk to parents/carers at drop off/collection time. I firmly believe that the relationship between teachers and parents/carers is vital in supporting children and so that you can get to know the staff and ask any questions that you have about the forthcoming year, we are holding 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. **The Year 4 meeting is at 3.20pm on Tuesday 9th September**, in Apollos' classroom; I hope to see many of you there.

Autumn Term Learning

In **English**, we are going to begin the year with a strong focus on handwriting and presentation. Our first unit of work will take inspiration from the story 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' where we will create our own section of a graphic novel. Throughout the rest of the Autumn term, we will study persuasive writing, poetry and a variety of explanation texts as well as looking at other narrative stories. We will continue to explore new vocabulary, grammar and punctuation choices as well as becoming better writers through organising our writing with paragraphs and sub-headings, crafting precise sentences and working on our self-editing skills.

In **maths**, we will start with place value: understanding that the value of a digit is determined by its place in a number. This will include the concept of rounding numbers. From there, we will move onto learning mental and formal methods of calculating for all four operations.

In **science** this term, we will begin by learning about living things and their habitats. During this unit of work, we will learn how to describe how scientists classify living things into broad groups according to similarities and differences between observable characteristics. We will be using classification keys to help group a variety of living things such as insects and other mini-beasts as well as examining how changing environments can sometimes pose dangers to living things. Later in the term, we will learn about how and why materials can change between the states of liquid, solid and gas as well as looking at the water cycle.

In **history** this term, we will be studying the Romans and looking at how their arrival affected Britain. The children will learn about why the Romans invaded Britain as well as exploring how the local Celtic tribes, such as the Iceni led by Boudicca, resisted the invasion. We will take a detailed look at some of the archaeological evidence left behind by the Romans in the form of the ruins of their towns, buildings and other objects – including a visit to the St Albans Museum on Wednesday 8th October. We will also look at gladiatorial games and why the Romans organised them.

Geography lessons this term will look at how and why places change over time. We will use a variety of resources to examine the past of St Albans and how it has changed. We will also explore the effect that major world events, such as World War Two, had on our local area. We will learn about how the quality of the environment in our local area might change because of things such as litter, traffic, pollution or amount green space and will conduct fieldwork to investigate what this means for where we live.

In **French**, we will be expanding our knowledge of French phonics and will learn all about how to greet other people and introduce ourselves (including our name, age, where we live and our nationality). Later in the term, we will learn to ask and answer questions about our families.

RE lessons this term will be focused initially on Humanism and we will explore the question: What motivates Humanists to live good lives? After half term, we will focus on Christianity where we will answer the question: What is the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today?

In **computing**, the children will learn about networks, website and how to keep themselves safe online. We will also study audio production and the children will learn how to create a podcast or radio show of their own.

In **art**, year 4 are starting the year by exploring the process of designing and decorating textiles using batik techniques. Later in the term, they will be developing their drawing skills and exploring how to create tone and proportion as well as 'drawing with scissors' and learning how to turn their drawings into prints.

In **DT**, the children will be using technology to explore product design. They will create product plan for a mindful moments timer which will include creating a prototype and brand logo. In the second half of the term we will complete a DT unit on cooking and nutrition where we will learn to adapt a recipe.

The children's PE sessions will be taught on a Monday afternoon by Mr Stevenson-Leigh and on a Friday afternoon by me.

We will be following the Jigsaw scheme of work for Personal, Social and Health Education (**PSHE**). This begins by setting personal goals for the upcoming year, before exploring the topic 'Being Me in My World'. The children will receive weekly awards in assembly related to the skills taught in these lessons.

PPA

My weekly planning, preparation and assessment time will take place on a Monday afternoon and will be covered by Mr Stevenson-Leigh (PE) and Mrs Campbell-Pugh (Art).

Home Learning

Home learning is especially important in Year 4 as children grow in independence. Home learning will involve completing a selection of activities based on our learning from the previous and current week.

Reading is a vital part of home learning and we ask that you continue to ensure that your child reads for at least ten minutes every day. It is important that your child's **reading record is signed by an adult daily** and that your child's **reading record and book come into school every day**. Please talk to your child about what they have read. On our class page, you will find documents to support these conversations at home as well as a list of recommended reads for Year 4 children that are suitably challenging.

Please also practice your child's 'Maths Magicians' facts with them for 10 minutes a day. In Year 4, most of our Maths Magicians key facts link to times tables. Maths Magicians focuses on supporting pupils to learn key mathematical facts that are essential if pupils are to understand more complex concepts. Children across the school are expected to work towards knowing and remembering the key facts for their year group, which can be found on the Maths Star of our class page on the school website. Of course, children will be taught these facts in class, but it is important that they practise these at home too. There are 12 stages for the children to work through each term, with a quiz each Friday. Successful completion of quizzes will result in prizes being awarded in our weekly celebration assembly.

Optional additional home-learning includes practising times tables (**your child's Times Tables Rockstars log-in is on the first page of their homework book**) and handwriting. Further information and links to relevant websites can be found on our class page. There, you will also find a document that shows the stages of development in mathematical reasoning; it includes questions that you could ask your child at home to help them think more deeply about mathematical problems they may encounter in the real world as well as in their home learning.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

In June, your child will participate in the national Multiplication Tables Check. This is designed to determine whether children can recall their times tables fluently. We will be doing times tables practice in class but additional practice at home will be critical in helping your child to master their times tables effectively.

It is going to be a great term with lots of exciting learning opportunities. Please see the school's website for key dates and our class page for regular updates on what is happening in class. If you have any questions, please just catch me on the door or at the Meet the Teacher meeting.

With kind regards,

Mrs Rowson