

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 4!

The children in Year 4 have settled in really well and are already incredibly focussed on their learning. They all seem really happy to be back into the routine of school and seeing their friends.

The detailed curriculum documents can be found on our website, but here is a basic overview of how this term will look:

Topic	Science	English	Maths
Waves of Change: Learning about coastal erosion, James IV & the Union of the Crowns	Classification of plants and animals - Cold-blooded or warm-blooded, vertebrates or invertebrates, characteristics of animal classes, classification of plants	Hermelin the Detective Mouse - Mini Grey Here be Dragons- a selection of high quality text featuring everyone's favourite mythical beasts!	Place value of 4 digit numbers, including rounding to the nearest 10 and nearest 100 Addition and subtraction up to 4 digits using formal methods, including exchanging
A Kingdom United? - Learning about Charles I and the English Civil War (including an Online workshop with Newark Museum)	Ecology - Habitats, interdependence of organisms and their environment, producers, consumers and decomposers, food webs, fossils, manmade threats to the environment	The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe - CS Lewis	Multiplication of two-digit numbers by one-digit number using formal written layout 3x, 4x, 6x tables



Home Learning

We will be continuing to use Seesaw as the platform for our home learning this term. This is a great way to record the children's learning in a variety of media, including photos and videos. Our expectations for the children's weekly homework will consist of the following activities:



Reading

Daily reading, either independently or to an adult to an adult (minimum of 10 minutes). We are moving away from reading records in year four and will be starting to use alternative ways of tracking the children's reading. You may find that your child is reading at a slightly lower AR level than they were at the end of last year since we retested them in the first week of term using the Star Reading Test. Children often experience this 'dip' during the long summer holidays and we are sure they will recover very quickly. We ask the children to record the scores from their Accelerated Reader quizzes in their reading records so you can see how they are getting on.



Spelling

Weekly spellings sheet generated by the Sounds and Syllables spelling programme will be sent home. We ask parents to support their children to practice a little each night. We will send out lists of spellings weekly on Fridays and we expect the sheet to be brought back completed by the following Thursday.

Maths

Times tables are particularly important in Year 4 as the children take an external test on these at the end of the year – all the children have their own Times Tables Rock Stars log in now, and we would encourage them to use this to practise their times tables regularly.



Homework Grids

In addition to this, the children will have a choice of home learning tasks to complete each half term. These will be a mixture of homework style tasks, home learning style tasks and citizenship activities which encourage the children to undertake tasks for the community benefit e.g. doing shopping for an elderly neighbour.

Each half term the children will be given tasks to choose from. There is a minimum expectation to complete at least 7 tasks and must include one from each category. Children are able to complete more tasks if they wish to do so therefore giving families the choice as to how much weekend time to spend on home learning activities. Homework will be recorded on Seesaw either as a written piece of work or a photograph/video as a record of what has been



done at home. The children can give these in each week or at the end of the half term when all are completed. Teachers can then use Seesaw to provide feedback on the tasks.

English

In school, we will be using the Power of Reading materials produced by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education as the basis for our literacy lessons this year: these use a variety of ways to explore high quality texts such as drama, visualisation and art. We are lucky enough to have the opportunity to share some fantastic literature and we hope the children will be as excited about the range of texts as we are. This year, we will be developing our sentence structure further, including the use of adverbial phrases and fronted adverbials. We will also have time dedicated to spelling and grammar.

Maths

Mental arithmetic is of great importance, with a particular focus on times tables. The expectation of children starting Year 4 is that they are fluent in the 2, 5, 10, 3, 4, and 8 times tables. In year 4, we will be learning the 6, 7, 9, 11- and 12-times tables. By the end of the year, the curriculum requires all children to be fluent in recall of all of the times tables and they will be required to sit a statutory test set at the end of the year. Please support your child in learning their times tables regularly as secure knowledge of these makes all other areas of calculation much easier. Children are encouraged to use a range of strategies in maths. Any help is appreciated, however if you are unsure of the various strategies used for calculations please speak to your child's class teacher

P.E.

Year 4 will be having P.E. on **Tuesday and Thursday**. Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in on these days. We suggest they keep their kit here all week to ensure that it is available when needed – there is sometimes the opportunity to have an extra PE lesson with Mr Riley at short notice. As the weather gets colder, warm tracksuit bottoms and tops will be much appreciated by the children.

Please ensure that earrings are not worn on P.E. days



Uniform

The children have started the year looking very smart and your help with this is appreciated. Please remember that jewellery (apart from plain studs) is not allowed in school and shoes should be appropriate for the school environment. Hair gel and closely shaven hair is not permitted along with large bows and hair pieces.



We would also really appreciate it if each child could be provided with an old t shirt or shirt to use as a painting apron. We will be doing lots of art in Year 4 using a multitude of different mediums and it would be great to keep the children's uniforms protected.

No sweets or fizzy drinks are permitted in school. Children are allowed to have **fruit or vegetables** at break times as a snack and are encouraged to drink water throughout the day.

Please can we also remind all parents and carers that Loseley Fields is a nut free school.

I hope your child enjoys the year ahead. If there are any problems, please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs C Stanton and Miss H Thatcher
Year 4 Teachers

