

# Welcome back to Class 4: Spring 2017

Dear parents and carers,

It has been lovely to welcome your children back to school after the holidays, we hope you all had a happy and refreshing break. We'd like to thank you for the very generous and thoughtful gifts you gave us at the end of term, they are much appreciated.

The school day: please remember that children should have school book bags (we are very tight on space) and Mrs Coles will remove non-regulation bags from the classroom. They should also have clear pencil cases containing writing equipment, including whiteboard pens (which can be bought from the office for 40p) and glue sticks. If you happen to see glue sticks on sale when you are shopping, donations for general class use would be very welcome. PE kits should be in school at all times and kept in the children's lockers. **Year 4 have swimming this half of term, so please ensure they bring all their swimming kit in on Fridays.** In order to protect office staff time and to teach children's levels of ownership, independence and resilience, the school will not be phoning or texting parents to request any forgotten kits. If a kit is discovered in the car after drop off and delivered during the morning, it should just be left in the Howe Lobby drop box and will be your child's responsibility to collect. The school have purchased some spare unisex swimming kits and small towels. The change last term to the spare school PE kits (to a bright yellow T-shirt) has miraculously succeeded in children not forgetting their PE kits anymore. We are hoping that one forgetful week and having to wear a school swimming kit will also effectively bring about a magic change in children's memories! Timetables for this half term are in homework diaries. Please talk to your child about their targets and encourage them to work hard towards them. Our history topic for the whole of term is Ancient Greece. Do encourage your children to research and read around the subject.

Homework: It is a government expectation that children know all of their times tables by the end of Year 4. Please keep regularly practising these at home with your children, alongside regular reading together. Remember that your children get house points for reading with adults at least 3 times a week. These points count towards children in the winning house receiving half-termly prizes such as mufti days or extra playtime! As yet, we haven't had a week when everyone in the class has handed their homework and spellings in on time. When this happens we will have a class celebration! Please encourage your children to take responsibility for doing their homework on time and ensuring it is work they can be proud of. This is part of our continued whole school emphasis on building resilience and independence.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns; find one of us on the playground, jot down a note in the homework diary (checked on Tuesdays) or send an email via the school office to make an appointment or arrange a phone call.

**SAVE THE DATE: Parents' evenings on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th March**

Thank you for your support, we are looking forward to another fantastic term with your children.

Mrs May

Mrs Watts

Mrs Russell

Mrs Atkinson

## Curriculum at a glance -Spring Term

<b>Literacy</b>	Stories from other cultures (Aesop's Fables) & Playscripts. Spelling and grammar, guided reading.		
<b>Maths</b>	Number and place value; measurement (time, area, perimeter, length, weight, capacity); geometry (2d shapes, angles, symmetry, position); mental strategies and written methods for addition/ subtraction/ multiplication/ division; fractions and decimals; statistics/data handling; problem-solving and reasoning skills, times tables.		
<b>Science</b>	Sound & Living things and their habitats	<b>RE</b>	Places of worship
<b>ICT</b>	Images, e-safety and coding	<b>PE</b>	Swimming, Hockey and Gym
<b>History</b>	Ancient Greece		
<b>Art</b>	Portraiture		

**Home learning** – Homework, homework diaries and reading records are due in every **Tuesday**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is your child's responsibility to ensure they find out what the homework is if they miss the lesson when it is set **and ensure it is completed**.

SPELLINGS: Set Monday, tested the following Monday.	Practise at least 3 times a week, making sure you understand the meaning of the words. Spellings will be set to practise a spelling rule or to support an area of the curriculum. A few spellings from the Year 3 and 4 spelling list will also be included each week.
LITERACY: Set Thursday, due in Tuesday, sign and add any comments to the homework diary.	30 minutes approximately. Finished quickly? Check and improve – proof-read, add detail, illustrate, extend written work or read related articles or stories.
MATHS: Set Thursday, due in Tuesday, sign and add any comments to the homework diary.	30 minutes approximately. This will sometimes be set through Mathletics. Alongside set homework, please practise times tables and telling the time regularly, using both analogue clocks (with a face) and digital 12 and 24-hour formats.
READING: At LEAST three times a week, with an adult signing and noting comments in the Reading Record.	Reading Records should be in school every day and are checked on Tuesdays. Please keep listening to and reading with your child regularly. Try and make time spent reading together as relaxed and as enjoyable as possible and encourage your child to talk about their reading.
TIMES TABLES: Several times a week	The national curriculum target is for all children to know their times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. It's a life skill and helps enormously with accessing other areas of maths. Please keep on practising! <b>Levelled</b> times tables tests will be held in class weekly, <b>with the hope that your child will progress through the levels. Children's tests will be sent home so you can see what their problem areas are which need revising.</b>