

Class 4 Newsletter January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. We hope you all had a happy, healthy and refreshing break.

It has been lovely to welcome your children back to school after the holidays and we are all looking forward to a new term of learning.

Manners

As part of our beginning of term activities we have been talking about the importance of using good manners, both at home and at school. We encourage the children to think before they speak, ensuring what they say is true, helpful, inspiring, necessary and kind. We continue to promote positive attitude and behaviour as well as the importance of kindness, encouragement and respect, in order to build one another up.

Times Tables

As you know, Year 4 is the year of the big times tables test. We aim for all our children to achieve at least 90% on this. Our Maths this term moves from multiplication and division onto fractions and decimals, all of which are highly reliant upon a sound grasp of the times tables. If this is a weak area for your child, please work away at these at home. Ten minutes a day could make a huge impact. The link below has information about the times tables test.

[Multiplication tables check: information for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check)

Time

Mrs May's morning in Year 4 is now on a Thursday and her lessons will focus on Time. We will be converting time between analogue and digital 12- and 24-hour clocks, as well as solving problems involving converting from hours to minutes, minutes to seconds, years to months and weeks to days. Time is a topic that involves lots of maths skills and concepts and we have attached a link to a useful article that explains why, despite the prevalence of digital clocks, teaching and learning analogue clock time is important. Please practise telling the time at home regularly both this term and all year round to help your child master this important life skill.

<https://www.dedhamcountryday.org/blog/10-reasons-why-its-important-to-teach-second-graders-how-to-read-an-analog-clock/>

Reading

Reading is a crucial skill. Please hear your child read at least 3 times a week. Practise rereading texts and passages as well to develop fluency. If your child is struggling with motivation, try reading alternate pages with them. Please also read to your child as this helps them learn new vocabulary which they can then use in their writing.

We are relaunching our class reading challenge, with a prize of extra play for the class with the highest % of children reading 3 times or more in a week.

Curriculum at a glance:

English	Class texts: The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman Escape from Pompeii by Christina Balit Story writing, letters, diaries and newspaper reports inspired by the books Spelling (homophones, suffixes, prefixes, Year 3/4 word list) Punctuation (dialogue rules, using commas) Grammar (subordinate clauses, fronted adverbials, sentence types)
Maths	Number: times tables, multiplication and division strategies, fractions and decimals Measurement: time Problem-solving and reasoning skills
Science	Sound, Living things and their habitats
Geography	Mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes
RE	Sikhism, The Kingdom of God and the impact of Pentecost
PSHE	Dreams and Goals; Healthy Me
Computing	We are musicians (producing digital music) We are HTML editors (editing and writing HTML)
PE	Gymnastics; Hockey; Handball; Dance
French	Town; Descriptions of people
Art	Pencil skills (faces and self-portraits); Sewing
Music	Activities based around Stop! and Lean on Me

Homework

Homework will be given on a Wednesday, to be completed and handed in by the following Tuesday

Spellings (30 minutes): booklet to be completed and spellings to be learned (Test on Wednesday)

Reading (20 minutes): At least three times a week, with an adult regularly signing and noting comments in Homework diary, please!

Times tables (30 minutes): Children will be told which to focus on (Test on Tuesday). We have a big national times tables test at the end of Year 4, so please do keep practising these regularly at home!

English and Maths (30 minutes on alternate weeks): Written work to be completed in Homework book and handed in on Tuesday, online activities to be completed by Tuesday

Please sign the completed homework to indicate that you have seen it being done.

Please remember that children should keep their homework/reading diaries in their book bags so that they are always in school. PE kits should also be in school at all times. Please check regularly that everything is labelled. Thank you.

Spelling

The following spelling lists are taken from the National Curriculum –any additional practice will definitely be of benefit!

Word List for Year 3

address answer appear arrive believe bicycle calendar centre
century certain complete continue decide describe early earth
eight/eighth experience experiment extreme famous favourite February
forward(s) fruit grammar group history important learn length library
minute natural notice often perhaps popular probably promise
quarter question regular remember sentence special strange strength
therefore woman women

Word List for Year 4

accident(ally) actual(ly) breath breathe build busy/business caught circle
consider different difficult disappear enough exercise guard guide
heard heart height imagine increase interest island knowledge
material medicine mention naughty occasion(ally) opposite ordinary particular
peculiar position possess(ion) possible potatoes pressure purpose recent
reign separate straight suppose surprise though/although thought through
various weight

We all want the very best for your children. 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 or send an email via the school office to make an appointment or arrange a phone call. Thank you in anticipation for your support. We are looking forward to another fantastic term with your wonderful children!

Mrs Hyndman, Mrs May and Mrs Mann