

Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your family had a happy and relaxing Christmas holiday together and that everyone is safe and well. As a staff team, we are really looking forward another exciting term!

Curriculum

There is a separate document which outlines a brief overview of the topics that will be covered this term.

Reading

It is impossible to emphasise the positive impact that reading has on your child's education and development. This key life skill, when learned and enjoyed at an early age, will improve your children's independent writing, expand their vocabulary, broaden their viewpoint on life, improve their concentration and expand their imagination. For these reasons, we would ask that you devote a little time each day for reading together with your son or daughter (approximately 15 minutes). Whatever form these sessions take: whether you share a book, take it in turns to read, listen to your child read or you are there to pose questions about what has been read, this is one of the best ways you can help your child. Please ensure your child completes their reading record on a daily basis with comments about the book s/he is reading and that they are brought into school **every day** as, in line with the school policy, they will be checked daily. The children also need to bring in their reading book each day in case they are asked to read with an adult.

Spelling

We really value your support in helping your child to learn the spellings which they bring home on a weekly basis. Opportunities are given during the school day for the children to learn these spellings, either on their own or with a 'spelling buddy'. We encourage you to check that your child is completing these weekly spelling sheets and rehearsing their new words each evening ahead of their spelling tests they will receive in class.

Maths

This term, we will be increasing the focus on times tables to prepare the children for the 'Multiplication Tables Check' in June. We will have a strong focus on multiplication and division facts throughout the year so all of the children will be fully prepared. Please see this website for further information: <https://blog.oxfordowl.co.uk/what-is-the-year-4-multiplication-tables-check/>

Please ensure that your children are accessing Timestables Rockstars on a daily basis for a minimum of 10 minutes as this will aid their fluency.

Additionally, children now have blue times tables book where they write the times tables they are working on. Please spend time with your children practising these and ensure the children have them in their bags each day.

Children will be provided with targets based upon the school's non-negotiable expectations.

Religious Education and Worship

This year we are excited to continue with our new school values. These are: friendship, thankfulness, kindness, forgiveness, **respect (for the environment)**, service and peace.

Each year group has been allocated with a spiritual value. During RE lessons and Class Worship time children will have the opportunity to learn and reflect upon their value using a range of resources, such as Biblical stories and verses, world news and events, and personal experiences.

The children will also be encouraged to take ownership of their year group value by thinking about how it could be implemented in to the school and wider community, for example raising money for charities or helping the school to be more eco-friendly.

The spiritual value for Year 4 is Respect (for the environment).

Games & PE

Year 4 children will have PE lessons (indoors in the hall) every Thursday and games lessons in Moormead every Friday. Please ensure that your child comes into school dressed in their sports kit on those days (see below). Please also ensure your child has a suitable light waterproof coat for games lessons on Fridays as the children will be going to Moormead whatever the weather. They should also bring in 'indoor' shoes (e.g. plimsolls) to change into after their lesson and a spare bag for their muddy trainers!

- Trainers, shorts and a t-shirt for PE lessons (Thursdays)
- Trainers, tracksuit bottoms, light raincoat and a spare pair of socks for Games (Fridays).

Homework

Homework to be given out on Monday and collected back in on the following Monday. We make every effort to keep this consistency so that families can plan their homework support.

- Reading book – 15 mins/day
- Spelling – x 10/week – Effective spelling/grammar strategies (includes individualised spellings)
- Maths – fortnightly rotation – Schofield and Sims/Mathletics
- Maths fluency: Times table work, number bonds, division work

Ongoing online Homework

Spellodrome - targeted spelling activities, Mathletics, Timestables Rockstars

Equipment

Children can bring in pencil cases which contain pencils, a handwriting pen, rubber, pencil sharpener, highlighters and a glue stick. No other equipment is required.

Morning Clubs

We are extremely lucky to have many adults working in the team across Year 4 team who will be running morning and in school clubs to ensure rapid and sustained progress for all children. We will use on-going data to select children for these support groups. You will be informed by letter if your child is required to attend a group. If you have any queries or worries about this, please do contact your child's class teacher.

Communication and Dates

You will find a summary of dates attached. FYI: Easter Service: 1st April 2020; School Journey to Swanage: 20/05/2020 – 22/05/2020; 4DT assembly: 30th April; 4L assembly: 18th June

As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of us. Catch us in the playground or email us:

This year, we will be operating a new emailing system in which you can email all of the teachers in the year group team: Year4@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk

With very best wishes to all of you,

The Year 4 Team