

Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a restful break and that your children are ready and keen to start their new academic year. As a staff team, we are already looking forward to the excitement and new opportunities which getting to teach a new class of children brings - especially after all that has happened in 2020 so far!

Normally we would be gathering for a Curriculum Evening in school at this time of year to discuss all the exciting opportunities Year 4 brings for your child but due to current guidelines this sadly cannot happen. Instead, we have pre-recorded our evening for you to watch remotely. It covers much of this letter in more detail and we hope that it gives you both an understanding and an insight into life in Year 4.

Curriculum

On the school website, you will find an outline of the Year 4 curriculum for this autumn term along with a timetable.

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 online reading record on a daily basis with comments about the book s/he is reading.

Accelerated Reader

The website to log on to is: <https://ukhosted59.renlearn.co.uk/6712885>

The child's user name comes from the initial of their first name and then the first 4 letters of their surname.

Eg: Sophie Lyth would be slyth

Spelling

We really value your support in helping your child to learn the spellings which they receive on Mondays. 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 spellings, accessing Readwriter and rehearsing their new words each evening ahead of their spelling tests they will receive in class. The children will be given a test in class on their spelling rule the following Monday.

Maths

This year, year 4 will be completing the 'Multiplication Tables Check'. 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 Timetables Rockstars on a daily basis for a minimum of 10 minutes as this will aid their fluency.



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

Times Tables Rock Stars

The website to log on to is: <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

The child's username is their surname with a capital letter. All children have been given their passwords confidentially.

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 into 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

Due to the restrictions with space and social distancing, to begin with children will not have PE lessons but instead will have a morning of games in Moormead every Wednesday. Please ensure that your child comes into school dressed in their sports kit on that day (see below). Please also ensure your child has a suitable light waterproof coat for games 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, tracksuit bottoms, light raincoat and a spare pair of socks for Games (Wednesdays).

Homework

This year all homework will be completed online via the Google Classroom and other online platforms that your child is already familiar with (Readiwriter, Mathletics, TTRS, Accelerated Reader etc.). Homework will be set on a Monday and will need to be completed by the following Monday so that teachers can mark the work that your child has completed and assign new homework which is targeted to what they need. You will be able to find the weekly homework timetable on your child's Google Classroom so that it is clear for everyone what they must complete that week.

A quick reminder: We now require that children who do not hand in their homework stay in during break time in order to complete this work.

Timetable

You will have access to your child's weekly timetable for the Autumn Term on their Google Classroom, however please do be aware this is changeable week on week dependent on trips, visitors etc.

Communication and Dates

We have a number of exciting trips planned for the Autumn term:

- Field Studies Council, Juniper Hall (Geography) - Friday 2nd October

As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of us via year4@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk

We very much look forward to the academic year ahead!

Kindest regards,

The Year 4 Team