

Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

Monday 5th September 2022

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.

As at the start of each new academic year, we will be holding a Curriculum Evening via Google Meet. In this, we will discuss all the exciting opportunities Year 4 brings for your child. The Year 4 meeting will be on Wednesday 21st September at 6:30pm. 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.

Religious Education and Worship

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

Each year group has 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.

Reading

It is impossible to over 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 child. 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 the best way you can help your child flourish as a learner!

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: Grace Mizon would be gmizo

Spelling

We are very excited to have a new school spelling programme which is based on the science of learning, strategically designed and will help children with their overall vocabulary too. As a result, we are moving away from homework which focuses on learning lists of words for weekly tests. Your children will bring home worksheets that build upon

the learning from the week. The evidence of learning will be assessed within the children's individual writing rather than a test. This should both eliminate test nerves and serve to support children in spelling well where it really matters - their writing.

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. At the end of Year 4, all children take a government mandated times table test. We cannot stress enough the importance of working on this with your children as of now so that they are able to access the full KS2 curriculum (the test is simply a measure of this).

Google Classroom

The new Year 4 Google Classroom will be a hub for everything the children need to support them with their learning this academic year. Please encourage your child to check this regularly to ensure they utilise all of the resources there. Children have joined their new classroom in school already and have all secured access to this.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Monday and will need to be completed by the following Monday. Homework will start from the w/c 12th of September.

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.

PE and Games

Our PE and Games are as below. We ask that children attend school on these days in their St. Stephen's PE kit with spare trainers in a separate bag in case of wet and muddy weather. A waterproof jacket and a water bottle should also be available at all times in school but specifically on these days.

- 4M (Turing) and 4T (Rashford) - Games Monday
- 4M - PE Thursday
- 4T - PE Wednesday

Communication and Dates

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 the year4@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk.

We very much look forward to the academic year ahead!

Kindest Regards,

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