

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! It was so lovely to welcome the children into Orange Class on Tuesday, and we are all very excited for the new term. We have lots of learning experiences planned so please do look at the curriculum map for more details.

I have included some information in this letter that I hope will be useful to you about our weekly routines and expectations in Year 4.

Keeping Active & Healthy

PE is every Tuesday afternoon and is run by the Achieve 4 All sports coaches. Please make sure your child has the correct kit in school each week and that it is clearly labelled. Lots of children have grown over the holidays, so it would be useful to check that their trainers/daps still fit. We hope to do lots of PE outside when the weather is dry, so black tracksuit bottoms or leggings can be brought into school when the weather gets cooler.

Our Forest School sessions will run **every other** Friday, starting on Friday 17th September. Children will need old clothes that are suitable for play, comfortable footwear (such as wellies), and a waterproof coat. I will put reminders on Class Dojo on the weeks that it is our turn.

Home Learning

Times Tables:

Times tables knowledge is especially important for our Y4 children as they will be completing the national times table assessment this year. I will be teaching children lots of different strategies to learn their tables, and we will be practising using computer programmes as well as using written methods. It is essential that children practise their times tables at home and I will be setting this as a weekly homework task. Every Friday, we will have a timed challenge where children work to beat their previous week's score. This works well as children are only working to beat themselves and not each other. It also means that we are able to personalise learning to meet each child's needs.

Reading:

Our expectation is for every child to read at home every day, recording their reading in their reading diary. Reading for pleasure will help develop your child's vocabulary, communication, concentration, empathy and imagination. Children should be reading at home for at least 15 minutes every day. Within school, children will read 1-1 with an adult, independently, and in guided reading sessions.

Spelling:

Spellings need to be part of the weekly routine for home learning. Each child will continue to have a login to Spelling Shed to practise spellings and revise patterns and rules. These rules will be taught in class on Monday and recapped and practised throughout the week. Home learning should be completed by the following Monday and will be checked by myself.

Independence

Throughout the year, children will be encouraged to be as independent as possible; making their own decisions, taking responsibility for different tasks, and being in control of their learning and behaviour. You can help them by encouraging independence at home. This could be getting their school things ready, or taking on chores such as helping to set the dinner table or helping with the washing up, or completing homework tasks with more independence. This encouragement and support will ensure that they are ready for the transition into Upper Key Stage 2.

Meet the teacher

You are invited to come into school to meet me and hear more about class routines and the expectations of Year 4 on **Monday 13th September at 3:45pm**. It will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. I do hope you are able to attend.

Communication

Communication between home and school is essential for the wellbeing and learning of your child. Please use Class Dojo to send any messages. If you have an urgent request, then please telephone the school office. I am more than happy to telephone you to discuss any concerns or queries you may have in more detail.

I hope the children are looking forward to what is going to be a busy and exciting year ahead. Many thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes

Miss Blake