



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4!

Year 4 is an important year, giving children the opportunity to bring together all of their prior learning from Years 2 and 3, and use this to support their learning of new and exciting concepts. With this in mind, it is essential that children try their hardest both in school **and** with their homework. Please encourage your child to not only complete their homework, but do so to the highest standard possible.

Reading

Please ensure your child reads every night. It is your child's responsibility to ensure they have their reading book in school each day as we begin every morning with reading and AR test time.

Homework

Homework will be given out every **Thursday** and must be returned by the **following Thursday**. This will give you the opportunity to complete it at a convenient time – it also allows your child the time to come to me with questions, should they need to. If homework is not completed and returned on time, the children will be expected to complete it in Golden Time.

Spelling

Children will be focusing on various spelling rules throughout the year. The children will have a spelling test each Monday on these rules and be sent out words the same day, ready for the following week.

Music

Music sessions will take place on a Monday afternoon. This year, we will be learning to play the African drums with a highly experience and enthusiastic teacher from the Durham Music Service. Your child does not need to bring anything to these sessions.

PE

PE lessons will take place on a Monday and Friday. Please send children to school wearing their kits on these days.

We look forward to another successful year, working together to achieve the best for your children. If you have any queries, then please feel free to Dojo during working hours or call the school office if urgent.

Mrs. Milne, Mrs. Sokell and Mrs. Rumble

Subject	What we are learning in class	Suggested ideas to help at home
English	<p>We will be writing adventure stories with descriptive settings, reports on fantasy creatures and a persuasive piece on joining the Roman army (linked to our History topic in the second half term).</p> <p>We will also be practising performance poems to enhance our speaking and listening skills.</p>	<p>Practise your child's weekly spellings with them.</p> <p>Hear your child read as frequently as possible, asking them questions about what the book and how they feel about what they have read.</p> <p>Ask your child to write as often and freely on any subject that they enjoy. Encourage them to read back through their own work to check for missing punctuation and incorrect spelling.</p>
Maths	<p>We begin the first half term focusing on the place value of four-digit numbers, including addition and subtraction in columns.</p> <p>We will also be looking at negative numbers, area and perimeter and how we can multiply and divide larger numbers using written methods.</p>	<p>Ensure your child is accessing TT Rockstars and working towards knowing all of their times tables to 12 x 12 in any order (including the corresponding division facts).</p> <p>Ask your child to show you what they have been learning in class and 'teach you' how they would solve a column addition/subtraction. E.g. $1444 + 2903 =$</p>
Science	<p>We start the year with a unit on living things, learning how to use classification keys.</p> <p>In the second half term, the children will be learning all about sound, how it travels and how we can make different sounds.</p>	<p>Research what all living things need to survive and grow and create a poster to help your child to remember this.</p> <p>Make a recyclable 'junk' musical instrument and explore how it creates sounds and what you can do to change the sounds that it makes.</p>
Geography	<p>In the first half term, we will be exploring Europe. This will include looking at the counties, cities, rivers and landmarks of this continent.</p>	<p>Talk about the places we know in our local area and what there is to do there.</p> <p>Explore a map of Europe and find places that you may have visited as a family.</p>
History	<p>In the second half term, we will be travelling back to Roman times and finding out what life would have been like for a Roman soldier.</p>	<p>Create a fact sheet on the Romans from research. A good website to use is https://www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_rome.php</p>
Spanish	<p>Our main focus is practising the main phonics used in Spanish.</p>	<p>Research Spain and find out about this interesting country.</p>
PE	<p>This will be taught by Mr. Littlefair.</p> <p>Autumn 1 will focus on dance.</p> <p>Autumn 2 will explore cricket.</p>	<p>Practise underarm and overarm throwing and catching skills.</p> <p>Move in a variety of ways e.g. shuffle slowly and discuss how this would be performed e.g. angrily</p>
Music	<p>Djembe drums will be focused on, as well as supporting children in learning to read, play and compose their own musical pieces.</p>	<p>Listen to a wide variety of musical genres and discuss how they make the children feel.</p>
RE	<p>The children will be learning all about Christianity and why the Bible is so important to Christians.</p>	<p>Think about the holidays that are important to Christians e.g. Christmas and Easter, and discuss what we know about these occasions.</p>