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An Oxford Diocesan  
School

**Headteacher**

**Mrs J Barnett BA (QTS)**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent,

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are delighted to welcome you back to the new academic year. This year promises to be a journey filled with learning, growth, and wonderful experiences. This letter includes information about the curriculum areas that the children in Year 4 will be covering this term, and also some important dates and information that you will require.

Mathematics and English will be taught in the morning sessions, with afternoons dedicated to the remaining National Curriculum subjects. Our topics this term will be 'Alive in Autumn' and 'Invaders and Settlers!'

The Year 4 teaching team this year will be Miss Geary – 4LG. Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Elliott – 4CRBE. Our LSAs are Mrs Hunt in 4LG and Miss Arshad in 4CRBE.

### **Mathematics**

Throughout the year, oral and mental mathematics will be developed daily in order to improve and consolidate the children's fluency with mathematical calculations. Key areas of learning this term will include: place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, and length and perimeter. In order to ensure children have a deeper understanding of each concept, we will be embedding reasoning and problem solving-style questions into every lesson.

Children will continue working on their Numeracy Passport objectives, which will include weekly times tables tests. They will be expected to practise their passport objectives and times tables regularly at home. The children should use their login for Times Table Rockstars to support their fluency and accuracy in a fun way.

The multiplication tables check (MTC) is statutory for all year 4 pupils. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided. We will administer the MTC to all Year 4 pupils at the beginning of June 2024. Times Tables Rockstars again, is a wonderful resource for this, especially the Soundcheck (beat the clock) function which mimics the MTC.

### **English**

Throughout this term in English, we will be studying the work of children's author Michael Foreman. We will write stories in the style of Michael Foreman and investigate a range of storytelling techniques. We will also be studying the use of imagery in poetry through a Harvest theme which links to our first topic of 'Autumn'. Later, we will use 'Mimi and the Mountain Dragon' by Michael Morpurgo as a stimulus for creative writing. Finally, we will use texts to inspire the writing of non-chronological reports that will link to our topic of 'Invaders and Settlers'.



Other topics we will be studying are:

Science	Living Things and their Habitats and Sound
History	Anglo-Saxons and Scots
Geography	Settlements
Computing	Presenting Information – Word and Scratch Programming
Art	Weaving and Printing
Games	Football and Netball
P.E.	Dance
R.E.	Hindu Murtis and Christmas Nativity
Music	Electric keyboard and The Glockenspiel
French	Les Habitats et La Famille
PSHE	Being Me in My World and Celebrating Difference

### **Physical Education**

The children will need a full, named PE kit (T-Shirt, shorts, socks, plimsolls/trainers). Both classes will have. Children will be expected to bring in and leave their kits in school for the entire half term. As a reminder, they will be required to wear trainers for outdoor PE. PE will be taught in two sessions – both classes will have this on a Tuesday.

### **Homework**

This year homework will be set and submitted on Seesaw. In Year 4 the children will receive the following homework: English homework will be set on a Monday and is expected to be returned by Wednesday; Mathematics homework will be set on a Wednesday and is due in on the Friday.

Spellings will also be set on Seesaw and tested in class. These will be given to the children on a Friday with a test the following Friday.

This year, we continue to focus on reading (especially reading for enjoyment) and are looking forward to finding out about what exciting books the children enjoy. Please make sure that the children have a book they are reading at home and can bring to school each day. Continue to listen to your child read daily, as not only will this aid their learning considerably, it will also increase their enjoyment of reading. Discuss the books that they are reading and encourage your child to choose more challenging literature in order to continue their development. We are using paper based reading diaries to record daily reading. It is vital that these are in school every day.

Our carefully selected reads for Year 4 are as follows:

1. The Snow Spider by Jenny Nimmo
2. War Game by Michael Foreman
3. The Borrowers by Mary Norton
4. The Famous Five by Enid Blyton
5. You're A Bad Man Mr Gum by Andy Stanton
6. Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
7. The Velvet Fox by Catherine Fisher
8. Nevertell by Katharine Orton
9. The Stormkeeper's Island by Catherine Doyle
10. Small Change for Stuart by Lissa Evans
11. Cloudbusting by Malorie Blackman
12. Rumblestar by Abi Elphinstone

### **Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**

Personal social and emotional development (PSED) forms a key part of our curriculum each term. Teaching personal development is vital in many ways. It helps children develop a positive sense of themselves, independence, respect for others, social skills, emotional well-being and a positive disposition to learning. In PSHE we will be continuing to use our Jigsaw scheme to think about our new start in Year 4, creating goals for the year and discussing strategies to work towards those goals. Throughout the unit, we will be discussing our feelings and ways in which we can cope with and support our peers through difficult situations.

Our second topic will be 'Celebrating Differences' – looking at our perceptions of what it means to be 'normal'. They will also be introduced to, and be asked to reflect on, the following key values through our weekly assembly programme: Trust, Love, Dignity, Generosity, Thankfulness, Joy, Peace, Community and Wisdom. In addition, across the Autumn Term, children will learn about the importance of helping others through our involvement with One Can Trust and our Harvest celebrations and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and our Remembrance Service.

In Autumn 2, all children will take place in 'Anti-Bullying week', a week dedicated to sending a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools and communities. Children are also taught that it is important to tell someone if they are being bullied and how to get help if they find themselves in that position. We also hold our annual, 'Walk To School Week' to help our pupils start to recognise both the health benefits of walking to school and the environmental benefit of having fewer cars on the road.

Finally, across the school, pupils are given the opportunity to perform key roles to both develop their leadership skills and sense of responsibility or teamwork. These responsibilities increase as children progress through the different year groups. In Year 4 pupils take on the following whole school roles:

- School Council – as voted for by their peers
- Collective Worship Ambassadors
- Equipment Monitor on KS2 Playground

Please keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter as that will provide further details of the above events and also detail additional opportunities that the children at SMAS experience as part of our PSED Curriculum and school vision.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year. May we take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child's learning at home. Let us look forward to a productive and enjoyable term. If you ever wish to discuss anything about your child, please feel free to make an appointment through the office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Geary, Mrs Reynolds & Mrs Elliott  
Y4 Class Teachers