



Park Street Church of England Primary School and Nursery

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Dear Parents/Carers of Class 4,

We hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to your children learning in Year 4 as much as we are. Below is some information which we feel that you will find useful for the coming year.

This year we will be fitting in lots, including the **topics**: Rivers, Ancient Egypt, The Nile, Victorians, Italy and Meeting the artists. In Science we will be including: Living things and their habitats, Humans teeth, Digestive System, Electricity, and States of Matter. Alongside each of these topics I have chosen a class novel that we will be studying during our English lessons. The first novel we will be tackling will be *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. I hope to plan some school trips to accompany each topic and will let you know further details closer to the time. As we have done for a number of years, our aim is for the topics to be embedded across the whole curriculum. Meaning that we will teach our geography, history and English curriculum, for example, directly through the current topic. There are a number of advantages of this approach and we, as a school, feel it is the best way for our children to make links and develop their skills.

The children will be receiving their own pen this year and they will be expected to write using it from the beginning. They do not need pencil cases or any of their own stationary as this will all be provided by the school.

We are incredibly lucky to have a fantastic TA working alongside Year 4 this year: Mrs Payne. Mrs Payne has been in Year 4 before and worked very well with Year 4. Mrs Payne will be in every morning and three afternoons. This first half term they will be teaching Design and Technology where the children will be creating their own 3D rivers. The children will continue to be taught French by Mrs Neill and Music by Mrs Killin once a week.

As well as Rainbow Rewards and Rainbow Reward Time on a Friday, we also have our own reward system in Year 4. If your child behaves well, contributes during class discussions or accomplishes a good piece of work they will receive a smiley face. At the end of the week, if your child has received 5 smiley faces, their name gets put forward for the smiley face draw where one name is picked out and gets the opportunity to choose a small prize.

Homework

Homework this year is set on Fridays and will be due on Tuesdays. This will include a maths' activity, as well as one more piece, which will either be an English or Topic themed task. These should take no more than half an hour per piece and I expect them in at the given times unless there is an understandable reason.

Spellings

Spellings will be distributed on a Monday morning and tested on a Friday. As the children are now progressing further along the curriculum, they will be expected to write a sentence to accompany each of their spellings. As ever, the children will also need to read to an adult as much as possible. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of this; the more that they read aloud at this age, the more progress they will see across the whole curriculum. As well as this, your child is expected to practice their timetables on a regular basis. We will be doing weekly sessions on this in school. By the end of year 4, the class is expected to know all of their timetables up to 12x. Please note down whenever you are able to do this with your child in their diary. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your on going support with this.

PE

PE this year will be on a Tuesday and a Wednesday, however, it would be great if your child has his/her kit in school on a daily basis, in case we decide to have the lesson on an alternate day. We will be going outside even in the cold, so please ensure your child has warmer gym kit when the weather turns.

Mrs Foster wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of our school uniform policy, which is readily available via the school website. A few gentle reminders that children are expected to follow this policy and to ensure their uniform is labelled clearly. They are not to have bangles on their wrist or painted nails, and long hair is always to be worn up.

It is an absolute pleasure to have your child in my class this year and I am really looking forward to getting to know them. I am firm believer in keeping a strong, open line of communication between home and school so please feel free to come and have a chat with me or book an appointment whenever you feel necessary.

Kind regards,

Miss Craig

