

## *Year 4 Newsletter September 2023*

# Welcome to Year 4!

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to all pupils and parents! We hope you are all well and are ready for the term ahead. The Year 4 teaching staff are as follows:

- Mrs Rachel Saunders (Year Group Leader)
- Mr James Westerman
- Mrs Natalie Mason
- Mrs Katie Cotton (Maths teacher)
- Mr Martin Robbins (Teaching Assistant)
- Mrs Laura Grimes (Teaching Assistant)
- Mrs Brooke Pearce (1:1 Teaching Assistant)
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### Literacy

We are very excited to begin our new Talk for Writing units with the children this year. Our focus for the first part of the term will be to write an exciting adventure story. The children will be expected to build on their learning in Year 3 by writing sentences which are correctly punctuated as well as adding expanded noun phrases and a range of conjunctions. Spelling, grammar and handwriting lessons will be incorporated into our weekly planning – spellings will be taught and handed out on a Monday ready to be tested the following week. There will continue to be an emphasis on handwriting which we aim to be fluent and joined by the end of Year 4. In our dedicated Talk for Reading lessons, we will be focusing on 'Voices in the Park' by Anthony Browne. The children will be learning to use a range of comprehension skills to construct their understanding of characters from an image.

### Numeracy

Children will be counting, partitioning, calculating and securing number facts this term as part of the Maths No Problem Scheme. We place a strong emphasis on secure knowledge of number facts, and ask that you take the opportunity to count with your child, and to practice number bonds and times tables regularly. Times Table Rockstars is a vital program which supports your child in their learning of times tables. We expect that each child in Year 4 will complete homework each week based on this – 10 games in the Times Table Rockstars 'garage'. This should take no more than 15 minutes.

### History

This term, we are excited to say that we will be learning all about the Victorians where the children will be using their history skills to reflect on our key question: 'Were all people treated fairly in Victorian Britain?' We will learn all about what life was like in the Victorian times for rich and poor people and compare this our life today. The children will learn about employment, housing, diet, crime and punishment and how influential people of the time helped to make changes which have affected our lives today. The children's learning will be enhanced further by an exciting visit to Southwell Workhouse which has been detailed in a separate letter.

### PSHE

This term the children will be focusing on transition to Year 4 to ensure they settle well and quickly. We will also be focusing on our feelings, the art of compromise as well as how to do emergency first aid.

### PE

This term children will be participating in invasion games, practising their attacking and defending skills. The children will be taking part in Dance on Fridays with Mrs Savage for their indoor PE lesson. For PE, children should have black/navy shorts, a t-shirt of their house colour, socks and plimsolls, or trainers for outdoor PE. Later in the year when it gets a bit cooler it may be necessary for children to have a sweatshirt and/or tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE. This kit needs to be in school each week from Monday to Friday, and can be taken home to be washed at the weekend if you wish.

### RE and Music

These will be taught in PPA time by Mrs Oliver and Mrs Huesken. Mrs Oliver will be teaching the children about Hinduism beliefs and lifestyles in RE. During music lessons, Mrs Huesken will be teaching the children to listen to and appraise music from a variety of composers. There will also be a focus this term on gospel music.

### Science

Our science topic is 'Sound'. We will be learning how sounds are created and heard. The children will be conducting some practical experiments to explore this and they will also learn how the ear actually works!

### Art

In Art lessons, the children will be studying the artist Eduard Munch. We will be looking carefully at his work and learning about symbolism leading to creating our artwork own using both paint and printing.

### Homework

Children will continue to receive Numeracy and Literacy homework. Both sets of homework will be sent out on a Monday with the expectation it will be handed in by Thursday for marking. We really appreciate your support in ensuring the children complete their homework at home. It also greatly benefits the children if they read for at least 15 minutes per night and practise their times tables and number facts as regularly as possible.

### Water bottles and snacks

Please send your child with a water bottle each day so that they can have a drink in the classroom (water only please.) This will be particularly helpful after break as it will improve the transition between break and lesson time which will enhance their learning. If your child has lost their Alvey bottle, a new one can be purchased from the school office for £1 or an alternative clear bottle may be used.

The children are welcome to bring a snack to enjoy at playtime but please make sure it is a healthy one. The children could have fruit, vegetables, cheese, yoghurt, low sugar cereal bars or nuts to name a few but the children will not be permitted to eat crisps or chocolate-based snacks at playtime.

**And finally...** we want your children to enjoy learning in Year 4 and plan our curriculum to make the most of fun, hands on activities. We look forward to working with you over the year, and always welcome you to contact us about your child's learning or well-being. All we would ask is that, if it is possible, such discussions take place at the end of the school day.

Yours sincerely  
The Year 4 Team