

Year 4, Dunlins Class - Spring Term Information

Dear Parent/Carer,

A big warm welcome back to the New Year, of which we hope is more of a settled start than this time last January! I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and made the most of your time off school.

It has been lovely to meet you all this term just gone, and a pleasure to get to know your children better in class. Please find the key information for Spring term in this letter, which is mainly unchanged, but please note the addition of class swimming to our timetable. As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact us via the school office.

Y4 Staff

This remains unchanged. Mrs Owens will be teaching on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with Mrs Biggs teaching the class on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Smith is the class Teaching Assistant, who will be in all through the week. This year we are lucky enough to have our French specialist, Mrs Illingworth, teaching us French on a Thursday.

Our Curriculum

We really enjoyed looking at 'Sparks Might Fly' and 'The Great Plague' in the Autumn Term. Coming up in Spring and Summer, we have some lovely topics. Our class curriculum overview is on the school website and it will explain each topic in more detail but the titles are:

Spring 1: The Art of Food Summer 1: Water, Water Everywhere!
Spring 2: Passport to Europe Summer 2: Hunted

Some of our activities/trips/visits may be restricted or not possible due to Covid-19 but more information will be given nearer to the time and alternatives sought where possible.

Homework:

Homework consists of spellings, reading and multiplications. Homework diaries are checked every Friday.

Spellings: We will send your child home with up to 5 new words every Monday. They will be tested on these spellings the following Friday. We ask that they not only practise spelling the words, but that they write each word in a sentence in their spelling books. Children will get a credit if they get all 5 spellings correct.

Reading: We will be continuing with Accelerated Reader, with an assessment when we return in January. Children will then be able to choose a book appropriate to their (maybe new) level. Once they have completed the book, they will take the short online quiz (matched to the text) to determine their understanding. Remember, please do not worry if your child's reading band has not changed at this point - we are still catching up lost time from last year and continue to monitor this closely and bridge the gaps between Y3/Y4 during English lessons and also Guided Reading. Children will also have a school library book. If children read with an adult three times a week (and have their homework diary signed to say they have done so), they can earn a credit.

Multiplications: The MTC draws closer. An absolutely huge well done to those children who have already learned all their times tables, and have made it onto our 'Multiplication Wall of Fame' (though you must still keep practising!). We have been doing a lot of practice in class, and will continue to do so.

All children in Year 4 will take the statutory online Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) set by the government in June 2021. "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." Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-development-process>

With this in mind, the aim is that all children learn, off by heart and with a recall of <6 seconds, their table facts to 12x12. In the front of your child's homework diary you will find a login for Times Table Rockstars. We ask that your child completes a minimum of three, 3-minute sessions (in the Gig/Garage section of the website) throughout the week. They are welcome to use the remainder of the website but these games are to be in addition to the required sessions noted earlier. We will be tracking their progress online. In order to gain a true reflection of your child's progress, we ask that only your child plays on their account. At first it might seem that questions are somewhat repetitive, however, a rate of 20 questions per minute must be answered before the next set of questions is introduced. Again, if children have their homework diary signed to say they have done their three sessions a week, they will earn a credit.

Handwriting: Children in Year 4 are working towards being able to write with a pen. If your child can form and orientate their letters correctly and write in a joined and fluent style, they will be awarded their Pen Licence. We are getting very close to handing out our first pen licenses.

Credits & Behaviour Policy

The children will be given lots of opportunity to earn credits. If your child achieves 6 or more credits in one week, they will receive a certificate. Please could we also ask that you read St. Peter's Expected Behaviour policy which can also be found on the school website.

PE Days

This term, we will continue to have PE on a Monday morning, however, our Friday afternoon P,E, slot will now be replaced with swimming at Carnforth High School (which you will already have received a letter about).

Please ensure your child comes to school with their swimming kit on a Friday, including a swimming hat for long hair. Children should come to school wearing normal school uniform.

Please remember to label all kit and ensure that long hair is tied back. We do have spare kit in school should anyone forget. Black jogging bottoms or leggings can be worn for outside lessons during the colder months. At all other times, it is black shorts please.

We will be continuing with the Mile-a-Day and Skip-to-be-Fit initiative throughout the week.

Medical Information

Please could you inform us of any medical issues/ updates you think we may not be aware of.

Packed Lunches

As we are a healthy eating school, we ask that you do not send your child in with a fizzy drink and that chocolate is limited to one small bar/biscuit. Please could we also ask that your child has a separate clear water bottle (with a sports top) that they can access throughout the day in addition to the one they have for their lunch.

Uniform

Our strict Uniform policy is on the school website but please could we ask that the correct school colours are worn, especially with socks! All long hair (if it touches the shoulders) needs to be tied back and hair accessories are to be plain and in school colours. No jewellery, except a watch, can be worn.

We are feeling really excited for the year ahead, and know there will be some fantastic learning.

Here's to a great 2022!

Mrs. Owens, Mrs Biggs and Mrs. Smith