

Welcome to Year 4 - Dunlins Class!

Dear Parent/Carer,

A big warm welcome back to the new academic year! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and made the most of some time off school.

It will be lovely to meet you all at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening next week, but in the meantime, or if you are unable to attend the evening, there is some key information in this letter. If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact us via the school office.

Y4 Staff

Mrs Owens will be teaching on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with Miss Knowles 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 have some fantastic topics in Year 4 and we cannot wait to get started. Our class curriculum overview is on the school website and it will explain each topic in more detail but the titles are:

Autumn 1: Sparks Might Fly	Spring 1: The Art of Food	Summer 1: Water, Water Everywhere!
Autumn 2: The Great Plague	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 this year and once your child has completed their initial online baseline assessment, they will be able to choose a book appropriate to their level. Once they have completed the book, they will take the short online quiz (matched to the text) to determine their understanding. Please do not worry if your child's reading band changes from where they were when school closed last year. It may take a little while to catch back up but we will be monitoring this closely and addressing the bridging gap 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: 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.

E-Safety

Please refer to the school website to read our Online Safety policy.

Credits & Behaviour Policy

Just as in previous years, 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

PE will be on a Monday morning and a Friday afternoon. 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/skirt please. We should be swimming this term but for the moment we will have 2 PE lessons in school. Hopefully, we shall resume our lessons soon. We will let you know when this is the case. We will also be continuing with the Mile-a-Day and Skip-to-be-Fit initiative throughout the week.

Medical Information

We will be checking the medical information that we currently hold for your child in Y4 as you collect at the end of the day. Please could you inform us of any medical issues you think we may not be aware of. If your child has an inhaler, please can you ensure they have a labelled one in school and can we please take this opportunity to remind you that we are a nut free school as we do have some children and staff with severe allergies, even chocolate spread can be harmful to some. Thank you.

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 all so excited for the year ahead, getting to know your children better, and hopefully a little bit more 'normality'! Please do not hesitate to contact us if needed.

Here's to a great 2021/2022!

Mrs. Owens, Miss Knowles and Mrs. Smith