

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Welcome to Year 4! The children have settled back into school well and I have been impressed with their enthusiasm for learning already. I feel very fortunate to be their teacher again and look forward to supporting them to learn and grow.**

#### Year 4 Staff

Class Teacher: Miss Taylor

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Andrews (Monday-Friday)

Mrs Elcocks (Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings)

PE Teachers: Mrs Annis and Mrs Porter

Music Teachers: Mr Lister, Mrs Hazelton and Miss Hill (violin)

French Teacher: Mrs Hazelton

#### Routines

We have now gone back to normal school start and finish times as COVID restrictions have eased. Children can be dropped at the main entrance between 8:40am and 8:50am. Our school day begins at 8:50am and there is always a morning activity for children to complete when they first arrive. It is important that they are here on time to complete this. If needed, Breakfast Club runs in the school hall from 7:40am.

We finish at 3:15pm and children are to be collected from the school playground. If needed, After School Club runs in the school hall until 6pm.

Break time: 10:30am-10:45am

Lunch time: 12:15pm-1:15pm

Merit assemblies: We are now able to have whole school assemblies and every Friday afternoon some of the children's achievements will be celebrated. I am really passionate

about boosting their emotional wellbeing so please let me know of anything outside of school that your child achieves (e.g. dance exams, swimming badges etc) so that we can share this and praise this too.

## Reading

Reading is a key focus for us this school year and we will be working to develop children's love for reading as well as their fluency and comprehension. All children have been given a new reading record and have chosen a book to bring home. If they are still on a book band level, this should take priority, however children are encouraged to also have a book that they have chosen for pleasure. Please try to listen to them read at home daily and write a note in their reading record to show this (it does not have to be a whole book – a few pages will be fine). Your child will have the opportunity to change their reading book regularly and will need to make sure that they bring their reading record and books into school **every day**. Even if your child is a fluent reader, please continue to listen to them read and also read to them from time to time, asking them questions along the way, to support their comprehension. It is really important that they can find the evidence in the text to prove/justify what they think. I will be adding some ideas for questioning into their reading records within the next few weeks, to give you some ideas for supporting your child with this. We also have a reward system in class to promote engagement with reading. Children will move along the reading chart each time they read at home, and subsequently earn a prize when they reach the end.

## Spellings and Homework

Our approach to learning spellings this year will be different to last year. Weekly spelling tests were not having an impact on improving the children's spelling in their independent writing and so we will be approaching this in an alternative way. Each Monday the children will have a new spelling rule to investigate and learn about and will have daily practise with this. They will bring a set of words home on Friday to consolidate over the weekend. We will have a test on Monday, as the recapping part of the spelling lesson. The children will be

rewarded with house points and certificates for using the words and spelling rules correctly in their independent writing rather than for a one-off test. Children will be set homework each Monday which will link with what they are learning about in class; primarily in maths and English. We will continue to set 'Unhomework' where the children will have an element of choice in how they complete a task. I loved seeing the children's Unhomework last year and know they enjoyed creating and sharing this too.

## PE

PE will usually be on a Monday afternoon and will be taught by Mrs Annis. Please ensure that kit is left in school all week as there may be changes or additions to the timetable occasionally. Pupils must wear the school PE kit and it would be helpful if it was labelled clearly with their name. Children can wear a tracksuit for the winter months. Jewellery should not be worn to school, apart from one pair of stud earrings which shouldn't be taken out for PE or covered up (only if newly pierced). The children will be going swimming on a Friday morning in the Autumn term and you will get more information regarding this from Mrs Annis shortly.

## The Pioneer Centre Residential

We have provisionally booked our annual residential trip to the Pioneer Centre for the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> February 2022. I will let you know more details about this closer to the time, to provide you with all the necessary information. This will be a brilliant opportunity for the children's personal development and I look forward to enjoying the experience with them.

## Topics

Our first topic is 'Marvellous Me', with a PSHE focus, to support the children in developing their social and emotional skills. For all topics, we will be using a 'book as a hook' approach, where the class texts chosen will inspire other areas of the curriculum. We will be doing a local study of Pershore and will be visiting Pershore Abbey, the Heritage Centre and other

local historical landmarks. In Autumn 2 we will continue with a 'Twisted Tales' topic where the children will be rewriting traditional tales and moving on to a Christmas themed book; 'How Santa Really Works'. We are hoping for some frosty weather so that we can go on a winter walk to inspire our ideas!

The spring term begins with an historical inquiry topic, 'Who Were the Anglo Saxons?', and this will culminate with an Anglo-Saxon inspired feast and performance. We will also be visiting the Pioneer Centre for our residential trip during this half term. In Spring 2 we will continue with a geography focused topic, 'Water, Water!' where the children will be learning about mountains, rivers and coasts. We will be visiting the local Wetlands area of Pershore as part of our fieldwork.

The summer term continues with another historical inquiry topic, 'Villains and Vikings', where the children will revisit Bishop's Wood again as they did in Year 3, to learn more about the Vikings. The children loved creating their outdoor Roman museum last year and so I have promised them we will do this again this year with a Viking theme. Our final topic will have a PSHE theme, 'Magical Moments', and will immerse themselves in a wonderful book, 'Leon and the Place Between'. The children will enjoy a magic themed science day, linked with this, and will be creating their own buzz wire circuit games too!

Please check the class page on the school website to see what the children have been up to. I will endeavour to update this bi-weekly so check back regularly.

### Multiplication Times-Table Check (MTC)

As of 2019/20 it is statutory for Year 4 pupils to sit the online MTC. The purpose of it is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables up to, and including, 12x12 fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. The check itself will take place in the Summer Term, in June. It is done online using a computer or tablet, and will take no longer than five minutes. It will feature 25 questions, and the children will have six seconds to answer each question. There is no problem solving involved and no division questions (although we strongly advise that these are practised too!). The questions will be in the following format:

$6 \times 7 = ?$   $4 \times 9 = ?$   $11 \times 12 = ?$  Within school we will have the flexibility to administer the check to individual pupils or small groups to best meet the needs of our children and give them the best possible chance. Leading up to this there will be lots of time to practise on the ipads or computers so that when the actual day comes the children will simply feel that they are completing their 'normal day-to-day' learning. There are also accessibility arrangements for those with Special Educational Needs and those will be discussed with you, should the need arise, closer to the time. There are suggestions for how you can support your child with this in the Times Table booklet on the maths page on the school website, but a few extra ideas are: Hit the Button on Topmarks <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>, Supermovers Times Tables on BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers> click on KS1 or KS2 dependent on how confident your child is with their tables. Last year we signed up for access to an app called 'Learn with Emile', that mimics the check. Your child's username and password will be provided shortly. This app features not only the check, but a number of games and activities that will help your child learn and understand times tables. The app can be downloaded from the Apple Store, Google Play Store, Kindle/Amazon Store or Microsoft Store for FREE; just type in "Learn with Emile".

### Other

As the weather gets cooler, please make sure your child has a suitable coat in school that is labelled clearly with their name. Also it is important to make us aware if someone other than yourself is picking your child up from school, or if there are any special arrangements regarding this.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions following this letter/meeting, or indeed throughout the year. If I am not able to see you when required (e.g. at the start of the school day) then please leave a note in your child's reading record, leave a message at the office by phone, or email [ht66@holyredeemer.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:ht66@holyredeemer.worcs.sch.uk). Please be aware that if you email in the evening or at the weekend, I may not get back to you straight away.

I look forward to another year with all your lovely children and sharing their learning journey with them.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Taylor