



'Being different, Belonging together'

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic half term break and that you are looking forward to the exciting activities we have planned for Year 4 this term.

### Curriculum Overview

This term we will be moving on to the new topic of **Potions**: a poison, a mixture, an aromatic brew, a vapour, a liquid or sticky goo. Welcome to the amazing magical world of potions and their properties!

This term we will be investigating states of matter. This will include describing the properties of solids, liquids and gases. They will be observing changes of state when matter is heated or cooled - we will even try bending bones! They will be using scientific language to report their findings.

### Homework

Homework will continue to be set in their maths books on a Friday to be completed ready to mark for the following Friday. We will also carry on with spellings based around a common theme as this is really helping our written work - thank you for your support with this.

### Reading

The level of enthusiasm the children are demonstrating towards reading has been fantastic - the reading awards may have helped with this! Reading at home is essential and comments in the reading diary relating to this are very useful, as well as the children's own comments of course!

### Times Tables

It is vital the children in Year 4 learn and secure their times tables up to 12x12. Regular practise at home is extremely important. TT Rock Stars is a great way of the children to practise their tables online and competing against each other. To improve their speed, children need to play games in the 'studio' section and we have a leader board displayed in class.

### RE

Community - Hinduism/Islam

Ways in which worship and celebration engage with and affect the natural world. The children will also be exploring beliefs about creation and the natural world.

### Other

The children may occasionally be given additional tasks related to their topic work.

**If your child is struggling with the homework set please encourage them to come and ask for help before it is due in.**

### PE

We have started our PE sessions this term on a Wednesday, and another session in the week, we are looking at ball games including football and rugby this term - please ensure your child has school PE kit in school all week. Suitable footwear is also required for outdoor games. It is advisable to leave earrings at home on P.E. days, can children with long hair also have a hair bobble to tie their hair back.

**Please ensure children have appropriate clothing for both indoor and outdoor PE lessons, including warmer clothing, including jogging bottoms, hoodies and even a hat when the weather starts to get cooler.**



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### Water Bottles

Please send your child to school with a water bottle to keep in the classroom. This will need to be taken home and washed regularly. Only water should be taken into the classroom - this will help your child stay hydrated and more able to focus throughout the school day.

### Labelling

Please ensure that all belongings are clearly labelled with your child's full name so they can be easily returned.

### Top tips for Year 4 parents

- Encourage your child to read every day (10-20 minutes would be ideal).
- Even if your child is already a fluent reader, you can still support him/her by exploring their understanding of what they have read e.g. describe what has happened so far. How does character 'A' feel, what do you think he/she will do next, why?
- Practise their times tables, every day! They are expected to know all tables up to 12x12.
- Encourage your child to pay for things at shops, working out the expected change.
- Practise telling the time, both digital and analogue. E.g. if I pick you up at 6 o'clock how long will you have at the swimming pool? If you would like to buy them a watch, buy an analogue watch first, so they can use this as a learning tool.
- Encourage children to look at tables and charts to figure out how they work e.g. train timetables, television schedules.
- Ask your child about their school topics and how their knowledge is progressing. What experience do you have in these areas amongst your family and friends?
- Take an interest in their homework; make sure they hand it in on time. If your child has not understood what they need to do and you are unsure how best to explain, get them to ask the teacher as soon as possible.
- Encourage your child to become more independent - they will need to be next year. Help them to develop strategies for making sure they have everything they need at school rather than packing their bag for them!
- Most importantly, spend time having 'fun' as a family. The children love sharing the things they get up to outside of the school environment!



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