

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope that you have had a relaxing Christmas break and that you are looking forward to the exciting activities we have planned for Year 4 this half-term. The children and parents I have met have all made me feel very welcome in my first week and I am looking to getting to know you all better over the coming term.

Curriculum Overview

This term we will be having fun exploring the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in our topic 'Traders and Raiders'. The children were very surprised to come into school on Friday to find a Viking sleeping in their classroom! This workshop has been a great start to their topic and I am looking forward to seeing the work they produce following on from this.

Homework

This term homework will be set on a Friday to be completed by the following Wednesday.

This will include:

Reading

The children are expected to read daily. Reading at home is essential and comments in the reading diary relating to this are very useful.

Maths and English

With new curriculum expectations, it is vital the children in Year 4 learn and secure their times tables up to 12x12. Regular practise at home is extremely important and the children will be tested weekly using a timed tables square challenge to assess their progress.

To learn spellings each week based on work covered in class (Tested on Friday)

To complete a Maths **or** English task to reinforce the work covered in class during the week.

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

PE will be on Thursdays and Fridays. A Multi Sports Pro coach will take Thursdays session.

A reminder that school PE kit should be worn. Suitable footwear is also required for outdoor games.

A change of footwear and suitable socks are very important as many of the lessons will be on the field. It is advisable to leave earrings and jewellery at home on P.E. days.

Please support your child by ensuring they have their named P.E. Kit in school.

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 12 x 12.
- 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?
- 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. I love hearing about all the fun things your children get up to outside of the school environment!

Thank you for your support with your child's learning. Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards
Mrs Kershaw