



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 3 and 4

Introduction:

First of all, welcome back to school! I know that we are going to have a fantastic year together.

Our morning routine will be a little different this year as I will be teaching Phonics to the Year 2 children for 30 minutes, whilst Maple Class will be doing their Basic Skills lesson with Mrs Kirkwood and Miss Hall. They will be practising their timetables and basic grammar skills.

I would like to provide some information regarding this academic year and specific points to note as we progress through the Autumn Term.

Mathematics:

This half term we will be focusing on place value and addition and subtraction. Year 3 will be working within 1000, whereas Year 4 are working up to 10,000. In addition, in our Basic Skills lesson we will be working on our times tables.

In Year 4, there is statutory times tables check. Children will be asked 3 practise questions followed by 25 practise questions. They will have 6 seconds to answer each question. The test should take no longer than 5 minutes and will be performed on the I pads.

The best way to prepare for this is by using Times Tables Rock Stars as this follows the exact format of the test. Children who regularly use this will find the format and process a lot easier and, most importantly, will have quick and accurate recall of their times tables. They will need to know all the tables up to 12, alongside related division facts. For example, if $2 \times 12 = 24$ then $24 \div 12 = 2$. The test will ask both of these questions. Preparation is just as important in Year 3 as Year 4 as multiplication and division form the foundation for many more complex concepts in Maths.

English:

We are looking at Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl in English and are working on writing a character description. After that we will work on The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. Any work you can do at home to support their reading is greatly appreciated, as this pays dividends in all subject areas. This will take the place of reading the home reading book every evening for at least 20 minutes and having discussions around what has been read to help children understand the text. Within these discussions, a focus on vocabulary is extremely important as research has shown that children who have a rich, wide and varied vocabulary understand the meaning behind texts (using inference and deduction skills) much better than those children with a limited vocabulary.

Topic:

This term we will be looking at the human and physical geography of Our County. The foundation subjects (art/dt, music etc) will be taught explicitly throughout the half term in weekly lessons.

Head Teacher: Mr John Appleby
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PE:

On a Wednesday we will have PE, the expectation is that children will bring PE into school on Monday and take it home on Friday. They will be changing in school. As it is the autumn term, please provide children with joggers and warm layers appropriate for sports. Hair should be tied up at all times in school and no jewellery of any kind should be worn in line with health and safe guidelines.

RE:

The focus for RE teaching and learning for the first half term will be studying the Bible and Christianity.

Homework:

As a crucial part of Year 3 and 4 is the times tables check, our homework will consist of Times Tables Rock Stars. It is strongly advised that children spend 10 minutes daily on Times Table Rock Stars as this is the best method to quickly recall the times table facts and mimics the format of the test.

For spelling, we will be using Spelling Shed, which will allow children to practise spelling rules and the statutory spellings for their year group. More information about Spelling Shed will follow.

Reading at home is another form of homework that is vitally important to the development of your child's comprehension and fluency. We strongly recommend 20 minutes of reading per day. Home reading books will be sent home on a Friday. They need to be returned to school by the following Thursday. When you listen to your child read, please fill in the relevant sections of the reading diary.

In KS2, children should complete the relevant comprehension questions located on our school website. You can find the correct PDF by selecting the title of the book your child has read. Complete the questions by the Thursday night and then add them to the 'portfolio' section on Class Dojo. Your class teacher will then respond to your work. These questions are designed by the book publishers to consolidate children's comprehension.

I always want my pupils to love coming to school and to find it a place where they can develop their curiosity. In our class we want to make progress and enjoy our learning journey. I hope we can work collaboratively to ensure the best education for your child. Should your child, or yourself require any support this academic year, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office.

I am so looking forward to this academic year and I hope you and your children are too!

Best wishes,

Miss O'Neil
Year 3 and 4 class teacher

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