



Year 4 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! We hope you've had an enjoyable and restful summer break. The children have made a great start to the year and have thrown themselves into it with superb enthusiasm!

English: This term there will be a heavy focus on spelling, handwriting, punctuation and grammar. We will be working hard to use the correct grammatical terminology when discussing our writing and continue to develop our skills in proof reading and editing. In the first few weeks, we will learn about setting descriptions using Harry Potter as a stimulus. We will then link some of our English to our Romans topic and explore different Roman inventions such as aqueducts and public baths. In the second half of the term, we will be writing persuasive articles and studying a story called Escape from Pompeii.

Maths: Our focus this term will be on developing mastery of place value, arithmetic laws and relationships and fluency of number. A secure knowledge of addition and subtraction facts, as well as all times tables, is key to your child's understanding of number. Please support your child at home by helping them to learn their times tables so that they can recall them fluently up to 12×12 . In May 2025, the children will take a statutory times tables test online. The test will ask them 25 times tables questions, giving them six seconds to answer each question.

Topic (History and Geography): We will be starting off the term with our Rotten Romans topic, where we will be learning about the Roman Empire and Julius Caesar. Children will learn about how the Empire invaded a large proportion of Europe and how this impacted life in Britain. The children will use atlases to locate certain countries and regions, as well as learning about the human and physical geography of a region in Italy. They will also describe and understand key aspects of volcanoes and earthquakes.

D&T: In D&T, we will be learning how to construct a range of free-standing structures. The children will be encouraged to select appropriate materials and construction techniques.

R.E and PSHE: In RE, we will be learning about Christianity and Hinduism. The children will be able to compare and contrast Christian and Hindu places of worship and beliefs. We will study the life of Jesus Christ and consider how different religions celebrate important events such as Christmas. In PSHE this term, children will be learning about 'Being Me in My World' and thinking about their own achievements and aspirations.

P.E and Swimming: Our P.E lessons will be on a Thursday morning and Monday afternoon but we ask that your child has their PE kit in school all week as PE days may change.

A few children will continue their swimming lessons at Fanshawe Pool on Tuesday afternoons. The lessons will start on Thursday 10th September and will continue until Tuesday 12th December. The children should bring a swimming costume (not a two-piece) or trunks, a swimming hat and towel. The pool has asked that all children wear a swimming hat due to hygiene.

Computing: This term we will be looking at using Scratch to create repetition with shapes. This will lead to creating and developing a programme, including debugging.

Music: In Music, the children will focus on a range of skills including developing performance through poetry, creating accompaniments, exploring how our voices can make different sounds, singing four-part songs and creating instruments from junk to compose jazz music.

Trip

In October, the Year 4 classes will be walking to Ware Museum to look at the Roman artefacts there. We will walk down in the morning after registration and return before lunch. We will send out a letter about this nearer the time.

Uniform

Please be aware that children need to wear **full uniform** which, in KS2, includes a tie (available from the school office). Long hair needs to be tied back with a hair tie/ small bow at all times and only a single pair of small ear studs are permitted. Make-up and nail varnish are not permitted.

Reading

In Key Stage 2 children are expected to read at home daily, either independently or with an adult. It is important that children have the opportunity to read regularly with an adult and to discuss texts in order to develop their comprehension. Please sign your child's reading record to show that they have read and remind them to bring in their book and reading record daily. We will check reading records on Fridays and award dojos for every time a child has read. Children unable to read at home a minimum of three times will attend reading club on Friday break times to give them extra practice.

Home learning

To support curriculum expectations in Key Stage 2, the children will be set an English task and a maths task each week and in addition, will be expected to practise **all** their times tables regularly. The home learning will be set on Seesaw. Please speak to us if you have any difficulties with this. **Please upload a photo of the completed task onto Seesaw** instead of sending in a paper copy as this is easier to mark and monitor. Tasks will be set on a Friday and must be completed by the following Thursday. If children are unsure of a task, it is their responsibility to seek support from their teacher **before the homework is due in**, giving them time to complete it.

Nut Allergies

A quick reminder that we do have children at our school with severe nut allergies, which can be life threatening. With this in mind, please can you ensure that packed lunches and snacks do not contain nuts of any kind. This does include sesame seeds, Nutella and some cereal bars. Please check wrappers carefully. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

We would like to take this opportunity to say how much we are looking forward to the year ahead. Please do feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

Miss Gray and Miss Horton

Year 4 Team