



SAINT JOHN'S

Where we all flourish

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the start of another school year and to the start of Year 4. We hope that you have all managed to have a fun, but restful, summer and that everyone is looking forward to the start of a new school year. We wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little about Year 4.

Within Year 4, there is myself Mrs Dot Seabrook, the class teacher, and Miss Morrow is the class teaching assistant.

The Year 4 homework routine consists of weekly spellings (set every Friday), an English task **or** a written Maths task in their homework book and a TTRockstars task set weekly. We use EdShed to help support the learning of weekly spellings and each week the spellings will be uploaded to enable the children to practise their spellings in a fun way at home. We have received very positive feedback from parents who feel this routine suited busy homelives whilst also allowing effective learning to continue.

Your child will need a bookbag as this helps when letters are sent home and also keeps the children belongings together and easily accessible.

Times tables are very important for developing children's understanding in maths. Once fluently learnt, they allow the child to focus on fully understanding the tasks rather than their focus having to spend time working out the calculation. As part of on-going assessments by the government, all children in Year 4 now have to take part (during June) in an online times table test. This is completed electronically and follows a very similar design to the format of TTRockstars. We have a focus each half-term to enable the children to develop instant recall of facts. This MLF is also on the school website.

Your child should still be reading at home – *even if they are a free reader* - and have their home-school diary signed **at least twice a week** (as a minimum). **Any book** that your child reads can be logged from either home, school or the local library. Diaries are checked every Monday so that we can monitor their reading. Reading at home could be: shared reading with an adult, reading to themselves or collaborative reading where they read a section and then an adult reads a section. It is also important that the children discuss what they have read on a regular basis to ensure that they have understood that they have read.

Every Friday, we have our Reading for Pleasure session where the children are actively encouraged to bring books from home to share with their peers – the focus of these sessions is to promote the enjoyment on reading. A bookmark with a selection of reading questions has been sent home with your child – these are not intended to be worked through each time your child reads – just two or three questions will be enough.

This term our PE days will be on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. Please can I remind you that the children are expected to wear their coloured house t-shirt (these can be purchased for £2 from the school office if a replacement is required), blue or black shorts or joggers and their school jumper along with, ideally, black trainers.

Every Tuesday afternoon, the children will be taught by Mrs Snow. She will be teaching French, music and computing.

Each child will have received a home-school-diary within the last few days. It is important that these are in school daily as we use them to record our reading, key events of the week and homework tasks. At the back of the diary, there is also a page that has your child's login details for the websites that we regularly use.

We very much look forward to keeping in contact with parents and carers via Class Dojo. However, please remember that although Class Dojo allows easier communication of messages and sharing of pupils' work, it is not checked during lesson time or out-of-hours. It should not therefore, be relied upon for communicating urgent messages such as school absences and any last-minute changes in pick up arrangements; these should be reported directly to school office. If you do not currently have access to Dojo, I will be sending home a letter explaining how this can be easily activated.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the playground, after school, over the coming days. If you do have any messages or questions, and you are unable to see either Miss Morrow or myself in the playground, then please message me using Dojo.

Mrs Dot Seabrook
Year 4 Class Teacher