

Year 4 – Curriculum Letter – Autumn 2023

Welcome to our autumn term curriculum letter! In this letter, you will find useful information relating to learning themes and special events, as well as weekly routines. I am looking forward to an exciting term of new topics for us to explore and enjoy. I am also looking forward to seeing how far the children have come on their learning journey since year 2, and working with them to push them further. I hope you will find the information helpful so that you can support your child in their learning in year 4.

Important information:

Clothing and Equipment

- Please can P.E. kit be in school **all week** from Monday morning. Some weeks children may need to take them home to wash on a Friday. We will begin our P.E. units this term with netball and swimming.



Children will need to bring suitable shoes for outdoor PE (Netball on Wednesdays).

- Children should bring a change of shoes if they intend to use the field at playtime during wet weather.
- To ensure that any 'found' items return to their owners, please can you ensure that your child's P.E. kit and other clothing is clearly named.
- Swimming will be on a **Thursday morning**. (First lesson on the 21st September, when there is no swimming the children will have a PE lesson on a Tuesday morning)

On Thursday mornings, children will be met by staff at Westgate Leisure Centre.

- Please can children come to school with a bottle, filled with water only.

Home Learning

- In preparation for the government times tables test in Year 4, there will be a focus on building the rapid recall of tables. Please encourage your children to practise their times tables at home. A fun way to do this is by logging in to Times Table Rockstars (www.trockstars.com). Regular chanting and asking quick fire questions, will also build confidence and quick recall.

A login for Times Table Rockstars will be provided in every child's homework book.

- Home Learning is usually set on a **Friday** and should be returned to school **by the following Wednesday**. This is to ensure there is time to mark and hand it back out, ready for Friday.
- The children will receive a **spelling list every Friday** along with their Home Learning task. These spellings will be **reviewed every Friday morning** so the children have a week to practise these at home and become confident at spelling these words independently.
- We encourage children to read as much as possible at home, as this improves all areas of learning.

This half term:

In the first half term we will be learning about environmental changes and their impact on the Earth. In this geographical learning theme '**Make a Change!**' We will be exploring the many environmental changes our world has faced, how these have impacted animals habitats and the different climate zones of countries and continents around the globe. In this thought-provoking unit, we will put our engineering skills to the test, competing in the 'wind power challenge' and turning our classroom into a pop-up art gallery, to display our 'Eco art', proudly.



Next half term:

We will move into the following half term by exploring our first historical learning theme of the year – '**Tomb Raiders**' where we will be exploring the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians and their lasting impact on the world. In this exciting new unit, we will be investigating life in ancient Egypt, reading hieroglyphs, making our own mummies and even baking authentic Egyptian bread. We will be taste

testing some Egyptian food and will even have a visit from our history expert Paul Ullson. (Last year there was a successful visit to the British Museum, I am looking into this and will share details later in the term).

Ideas for supporting children's learning at home:

- Visiting the local library;
- Useful books to read: non-fiction texts about Ancient Egypt, climate change and exploring atlas's;
- <https://www.trockstars.com/> - This is a useful site to support your children in their times tables, ahead of this year's times tables test.
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - This is another great website to help with times tables, which doesn't require a login.
- Reading every day with your child at home, listening and asking questions about their reading material, will really enhance their overall knowledge and understanding.

Finally...

- I am available most afternoons to discuss any matters or questions you may have.
- Please let me know if you are able to help by volunteering to listen to children read, or playing games to improve table fluency – your help will always be welcomed and appreciated.

I am really looking forward to working with you and your children again and having another fantastic year.

Kind regards,
Mrs Saunders