



Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Welcome back to All Souls' after our unexpected break! It has been fantastic to see all of Year 4 back in the classroom and eager to get back to the routines of school life. Though I do know some of you through meetings and having taught siblings, I would like to take this opportunity to say hello and express how fortunate I feel to be working with such an energetic and enthused group of children. We are also very lucky to have Ms McGinn and Mrs Swain working with the class each morning as our teaching assistants and Mrs Durrans helping to support children in the afternoons. We'd like to say hello from this Year 4 team and update you on the term ahead as well as answer some of the questions you may have.

#### Curriculum

On return to school this year, our intention is to ease children back into school so that they feel secure and safe within the classroom. To help with this, much of the curriculum time during these first few weeks has centred on activities relating to how each child is feeling and thinking.

The timetable has been arranged to allow for short burst activities between ten to thirty minutes, which are broken up with physical activities to give our minds a rest. Some of these shorter lessons include:

- Writing skills
- Times tables and arithmetic
- Handwriting
- Grammar and Punctuation
- Spelling
- Reading comprehension

In the afternoons, more time is dedicated to R.E. and P.E. with Science being included for at least one session each week. On Tuesday afternoons, Ms McGinn leads an Art lesson and this is followed by a P.E. session with Mr Youson.

In addition to these curriculum subjects, we have also been working through a series of baseline assessments with the children. This ensures we accurately identify the children's strengths and

weaknesses in each subject after their time spent away from school during lockdown. Once these baseline assessments have been completed, time will be taken to analyse them. We will then be able to discuss targets and next steps in more detail at the October virtual parents evening.

#### Expectations

As the children have made the move into Year 4, there is an increase in the expectations and responsibilities given to them. We expect Year 4 children to begin to set an example of behaviour, attitude and appearance to those in lower years. Currently this means arriving at school ready to spend time outside regardless of the weather. I expect Year 4 children to organise their belongings and ensure they have bottles, jumpers and other items ready to take home independently. We can help children develop their confidence and independence with this by making sure all items are fully labelled. Children are also required to take care of their classroom and surroundings by making sure their area of the room is tidy when leaving the room. Finally, we ask Year 4 children to be mindful of how they are moving around the school building, particularly at this current time. We are aiming to avoid crowding in key areas and so when lining up need to be attentive and respectful of each other's space.

#### Reading

Reading is the most valuable homework that your child could ever do and in Year 4 it is expected that they read for a minimum of 15 minutes every day outside of school. Whether loved or loathed, everybody has to read to get about their daily lives and so if your child has no interest in developing their reading as a passion, then they must develop it as a skill! If you would any recommendations books please email me. I will be happy to advise. We are in the process of getting children back onto the school reading scheme. We will, however, be issuing children with several books at a time to take home and read, before returning them all at the same time. This is to limit the frequency of items coming in and out of school. When books are returned to school, there will be a box for them to be placed in within the classroom so that they can be fully disinfected before being returned to the bookcases. I ask for your support in encouraging and monitoring your child's reading as this is absolutely critical to their development in Literacy. Please expose your child not only to the reading scheme books provided by school, but also to further material such as magazines, encyclopaedias and other books by their favourite authors. They may not be able to read these independently, but sharing different books with your child will nurture their love of reading and hugely benefit their academic development.

#### Key Dates

13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Virtual Parents Open Evening
24 <sup>th</sup> October – 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Half term holiday
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

Kind regards,

Mr Rolison