



St Mary's C of E Primary School
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Head Teacher: Miss Sarah Gray

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Dear Families of Year 4

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and enjoyed the beautiful weather. It has been great to see all the children back in school and to see how much they have grown! We've had a lovely start to the term, everyone has settled in really well and we're already getting stuck into life in Year 4.

Below is some information about the Autumn term ahead that I hope will be helpful.

I also look forward to seeing many of you at 'Meet the Teacher' session which is **2.45pm on Wednesday 16th September**. For anyone who can't make it, the slides from the session will be available on the class webpage and also on Google Classroom.

STAFFING

I will be teaching Year 4 from Monday to Friday. However, on Thursday morning Mrs Dobbs will be teaching (French and Computing), plus Ms Forsyth will be teaching Music on Friday mornings.

Mrs Sidhu will be supporting us in class every morning, alongside Miss Lummis, Miss Bolwell and Mrs Green, who will be supporting the children at different times throughout the week.

PE

As well as **swimming on Mondays**, our other PE lesson will be on **Wednesday** afternoons. As per last year, children should come to school **wearing their PE kits on both days**.

They will be outside as much as possible so need to come in full, named, school P.E. kits including trainers and tracksuits/joggers. Earrings and jewellery *cannot* be worn for P.E or swimming. Please remove earrings on P.E. days – Mondays and Wednesdays. If children have earrings on they will be asked to remove them so please ensure they are able to do this independently.





SWIMMING

Year 4 will be swimming **every Monday** at Berkhamsted Leisure Centre, with qualified swimming instructors. We will leave school at 9.30am, ready for our swimming lesson from 10.00–10.30am. We will then walk back to school and aim to arrive by 11.00am.

To make changing quicker, please send children in with their **swimming costume/trunks underneath their PE clothes**. They will also need a swimming bag containing:

- a towel
- a swimming hat
- Goggles
- underwear to change into afterwards!

Children may also bring a **healthy snack** to eat on the walk back to school – **fruit, veg or a cereal bar on Mondays given they will be particularly hungry (no nuts or chocolate please)**. Please also remember that earrings and other jewellery cannot be worn for swimming.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be set on a **Thursday** via the Google Classroom, to be handed in by the following **Tuesday**. Please contact me if you require your child's login details via the Year 4 email address (see below).

Homework will be **maths and reading tasks and spellings to learn**. Children should also be doing regular **times tables practise - TT Rock Stars** is our go to app to practice on. All children will have a green Homework Book to complete their homework in and this should be done in pencil and be well presented.

Children should also be **reading every day** so please continue to hear your child read at home and read to them to model good reading. Even if you only have a short time available, this is really valuable. Children will bring a reading book home but they are of course free to read other texts that you have at home. When they have finished their school book they can bring it back and choose another to read. Please encourage your child to record their reading on their bookmark EVERY time they read - date and page number is all they need! Each time they start a new book they should write the new title. This will enable us to check what they are reading and how often.





AUTUMN TERM CURRICULUM OVERVIEW IN YEAR 4

Maths: Number, addition & subtraction (place value, rounding, mental and written calculations), Multiplication & division (times tables, multiples, factors and problem solving), Measurement & statistics (converting units, estimating and calculating measures, and interpreting graphs)

English: Narrative (Arthur and the golden rope), Persuasive speech (*The King who banned the dark*), Poetry (*A small dragon*), Explanations (*Until I met Dudley*), Narrative (*Zeraffa Giraffa*)

Science: Animals - digestions and food, Energy- electricity and circuits.

RE: Creation - What do Christians learn from the creation story? Incarnation - What is the trinity?

Geography: Why are rainforests important to us?

History: Local History - Children in Victorian times

Computing: Online Safety, Effective searching, Writing for different audiences.

Art: Drawing: Exploring tone, texture and proportion

D&T: Healthy and varied diets. Cooking - vegetarian muffins.

PSHE: Being me in the world, Celebrating differences.

Music: Recorder: Revise correct way to hold a recorder, play B, A and G and begin to learn top C (Piece: *Pineapple Punch*). Perform before an audience - play A G, top C (Piece: *Mr Cool*).

PE: Swimming, Handball, Tri golf.

GROWTH MINDSET AND MINDFULNESS

Having a 'Growth Mindset' is a massive asset to learners. We want our children to take risks, accept challenges, think positively and learn from mistakes. Families can support children to develop their Growth Mindsets by sharing positive messages about learning. We will be reinforcing messages such as, "*Mistakes help me learn!*" and "*Small progress is still progress* -





keep going!". We will also be helping the children to develop 'Mindfulness' skills, which will involve learning relaxing breathing and visualisation techniques.

NOTICES

Drop off: Mornings tend to be very busy by the classroom doors so please encourage your child to come to the classroom independently if possible from the lower playground as this will leave room for the younger children on the top playground.

Collection: Collection is from the bottom playground. As always, if your child is going home with someone other than yourselves please let me know via the Year 4 email (see below) or via the office.

Forest school: We hope to make use of the forest school as much as we can. When we do I will be sure to give plenty of advance notice to bring in welly boots and any other clothing if needed.

Pebble Jar treats: Year 4 have settled in well and are already earning lots of pebbles! Again, I will be sure to let you know when they have filled the Pebble Jar and what their chosen treat is.

Class Trips: We are currently booked in for a **class residential trip to Woodrow 5th - 7th May 2027**. More information will be shared in due course.

Donation wish list: As we move into the colder months and coughs and colds start up again, we would be extremely grateful for any donations of boxes of tissues in Year 4.

COMMUNICATION

If you have any questions about your child or Year 4, or if you want to arrange a conversation with me, please contact me via the Year 4 email - year4@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk. I will be checking this email every day.

Many thanks

Mr Worth

