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Primary School
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Dear Parent/Carers,

What's going on in Year 4?
Spring Term 1 – 2026

Happy New Year. We hope you all had a pleasant and peaceful break and are ready for our exciting Spring Term. We're very excited about the half-term ahead and hope the children are rested and full of energy as they are going to need it!

Our main focus this half-term will be our Science topic: ***Changes of State***. During our science lessons, we'll be looking at states of matter and how materials change from one state to the other. Our science work will accompany our Geography topic about the water cycle and how water is used around the world. In Literacy, our main focus will be the book, *Ice Palace*, by Robert Swindells. We will be reading this as a class and would be grateful if the children did not pre-read it at home as we will be doing lots of predicting and inference work related to the text.

Other areas we expect to be covering:

Maths	Written and mental methods of multiplication and division as well as work on length and perimeter. We will continue to do battles with our times-tables on Timestables Rockstars.
English	We will be looking at the following genres: narratives based in fictional settings, and writing an adventure narrative. Punctuation and grammar sessions will form an integral part of our lessons. We will continue to have our daily spelling and regular handwriting sessions.
Music	We will be learning to sing and play The Doot Doot Song! We will develop technical skills on tuned percussion, learn about chords, 'doodle' (improvise) with our voices and experience playing in a class band.
PE	Both classes will continue PE lessons on Tuesdays for which they will need an <u>outdoor</u> PE uniform. Their focus this half term will be Invasion games and in particular – tag rugby. Maple will start a new unit of work on gymnastics on Friday afternoons and will require <u>indoor</u> PE kit for these lessons. Chestnut children will be swimming on Friday afternoons and will need to bring their swimming kit to school on Fridays. All children need to wear "proper" swimming kit, - a one-piece swimsuit for girls and tight-fitting trunks or shorts for boys. Any open pockets on boys' trunks will need to be sewn up. If the children want to wear goggles during swimming, parents will need to give permission using the online forms that have been/will be sent out.

For more information on subject coverage see the half term overview on our Web page.

Homework- will usually be given out on a Friday and expected back in the following Thursday.

The following homework list is as a guideline/suggestion to help you support your child in the work they do out of school. Actual times may vary according to the ability of your child, and you should use your judgement to gauge their individual needs.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6)	
Reading	Aim for every day – minimum of 4 x weekly
Spelling	Access EdShed 4 x weekly
CGP Book	Class teachers will set a section per week which will link with either the spelling pattern or grammar/vocabulary being taught in school
Multiplication Facts	Access Times Table Rock Stars 4 x weekly
Homework Project	One per half term (optional)

- Reading - **ideally to an adult** for a minimum of fifteen minutes.
- Spelling - reinforcement of spelling strategies. Spellings will usually be checked on Monday and you will be able to see the results in the children's Reading Diaries.
- Times-tables – tested weekly in a timed test (usually on Fridays). The test will involve answering 25 multiplication calculations with a time limit of 6 seconds per question. For the moment, we will be focussing on individual times-tables but this will expand quickly to include other times-tables as the term progresses. Children can also practise “soundcheck” on TTRS as this will form part of the children's preparation for the statutory times-tables check that they will be required to take next June.
- PAG – a weekly activity from the children's CGP activity book will be prescribed to support either current learning or revise previous learning.

It is anticipated that your child's homework diary will be used as a 2-way channel of communication between school and home. We would therefore be grateful if it is signed by a parent/carer on a weekly basis, adding anything you wish to tell us. We aim to check and sign diaries once a week. If you do write a note to us in the diary, please ask your child to let us know there is a message for us.

Please can you also make the Year 4 staff aware of any instances where your child will be collected by someone other than their primary carer. This includes times where you would like your child to meet you somewhere other than the classroom door. You can write this information in their homework diary.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Powell and Mr Good

The Year 4 Team