



**Abbey Road
Primary School**

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September 2020

What's going on in Year 4?
Autumn Term 1 – 2020

Dear Children, Parent/Carers,

Welcome to Year 4! We are all very excited to be getting back to school and we hope you are too. You will already know about the additional procedures and timings for coming into and out of school so we will not be going over that again in this letter.

We are excited about the term and year ahead and while some things may have to change and may look a little different, we have lots of exciting activities and topics ahead. In this letter, we will share details of some of the things we shall be covering during this term. As you will be aware, the adults working in Year 4 are Mrs Avery, Mr Marshall, Mrs Trick and Miss Clow.

Our year has already started with some settling in activities that are enabling the children to become familiar with their new classmates, new classrooms, new adults and new procedures. Next week we will begin our exciting Roman topic in which we will be specifically looking at the impact of the Romans on Britain. We hope the children will enjoy our modified immersion activities.

In Year 4, our annual residential trip to Hathersage usually takes place in the second half-term of Autumn. However, this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions on residential, we have had to move our trip to the only available dates – early in the Spring Term. While there is no definite promise that the trip will take place in Spring, we were glad to avail of the opportunity to transfer our booking. We will keep you informed, as we get closer to the time.

Main highlights from this half term include:

- Maths** Recap and consolidate understanding of number and the number system including Roman numerals; written and mental methods of addition and subtraction.
- English** We will be looking at the following genres: legends and narratives based in historical settings. Punctuation and grammar sessions will form an integral part of our lessons. In addition, we will have a spelling session each Monday to look at and investigate spelling rules and we will be developing our recall of the statutory Year 3 and 4 words. These are in the children's new reading diaries and on our class page.
- Music** As in previous years and with the support of The Arts Council of England, all of the children in Year 4 will receive weekly ukulele lessons during the Autumn term. These are whole class sessions and will take place on Friday afternoons. The children will be provided with an ukelele to use during the lessons, but these they will have to remain at school throughout the week. The children may bring in their own ukulele if they wish.

Humanities **History:** Romans and their impact on Britain.

PE Children need to bring the correct PE kit into school on Mondays and keep them in School until Friday. PE for this half-term will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the children will be developing skills involved in Invasion Games and Tennis.

Art In Art lessons, we will be developing our understanding of drawing and sculpture as well as investigating the skills needed to produce mosaics.

Our curriculum will also cover activities in **PHSE, ICT, Spanish** and **RE**.

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

The following homework list is a guide line/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.

- Daily reading - ideally to an adult for a minimum of fifteen minutes.
- Spelling - reinforcement of spelling strategies. We recommend visiting spellings daily for a short period of time rather than cramming the night before or morning of a spelling test. Spellings will usually be checked on Mondays.
- Times-tables – tested weekly in a timed test (Mondays). 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 such as 25 questions on the 2 times-tables, but this will expand quickly to include other times-tables as the term progresses. This will form part of the children’s preparation for the statutory times-tables check that they will be required to take next June. Each week we will focus on a different times-tables and the details will be in their homework diaries. Fast and accurate recall of all times-tables is essential so that the children will not be distracted in calculations when learning the mechanics of written multiplication and division.
- Weekly paper-based task/activity based on our either our topic, Maths or English work (20-30 mins per week).

We anticipate that your child’s homework diary will be a 2-way channel of communication between school and home. We would be grateful if you could sign it 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.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Avery, Mr Marshall, Mrs Trick and Miss Clow
The Year 4 Team

