



**Abbey Road
Primary School**

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Dear Parent/Carers,

What's going on in Year 4?
Spring Term 1 – 2022

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! The adults currently working in Year 4 are: Mrs Avery, Miss Powell, Mrs Horton and Mrs Oliver.

Our main focus this half-term will be our Science and Literacy topic: Ice Palace: 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. In Science, Geography and Literacy, we'll learn about the water-cycle and create an information leaflet about Solids, Liquids and Gases. During Art lessons, we will be complementing our Science and Geography work by developing our knowledge of sculpture in a variety of media. 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. Our DT project will also link with our Science work but we don't want to give too much away!

Other areas we expect to be covering:

- Maths** Written and mental methods of multiplication and division as well as work on area and fractions. We will continue to do battle with our times-tables.
- English** We will be looking at the following genres: narratives based in fictional settings, information leaflets using the knowledge we gain in Science and Newspaper reports. Punctuation and grammar sessions will form an integral part of our lessons. We will continue to have our weekly spelling and handwriting sessions.
- PE** Both classes will continue PE lessons on Tuesdays for which they will need an outdoor PE uniform. Their focus this half term will be Invasion games and in particular – Tag rugby.
4P will start a new unit of work on netball on Friday afternoons and will also require an outdoor kit for these lessons.
4A children will be swimming and will need to bring their swimming kit to school on Fridays. If the children want to wear goggles during swimming, a form must be completed and returned to school before Friday morning – verbal consent is not sufficient. Please ask class teachers or at the office.

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.

- Daily reading – ideally to an adult for a minimum of fifteen minutes.
- Daily reinforcement of spelling strategies which will be checked at school. 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 be checked on Fridays. All children have a login to the website Edshed which has fun games that will hopefully enable them to learn their spellings.
- Times-tables – tested weekly in a timed test (5 minutes on Fridays). At this stage in the year, we encourage the children to revise all the tables. If you would like a more refined or specific programme please talk to your child’s teacher. We’ll be using the “Soundcheck” game on Times Tables Rockstars at school on Fridays and encourage the children to include this game in their practise.
We are aiming to consolidate the children’s learning as well as their knowledge of the related division facts. Fast and accurate recall of all times-tables is essential so that children do not get bogged-down in calculations when learning the mechanics of formal written multiplication and division methods which we are looking at this half-term.
- Weekly paper-based task/activity based on either our Topic, Maths or English work (20-30 mins per week).

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.

If you have any expertise that you can share with the class, then please let us know. We are looking forward to the term ahead and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Avery, Miss Powell, Mrs Horton and Mrs Oliver
The Year 4 Team

