

Orville Class 2022-2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

We hope you all had a safe and relaxing break and we look forward to seeing you at various events during the year. Year 4 is a very exciting (and busy) year with many new experiences and opportunities on offer. Hopefully, you will find the information in this leaflet to be a useful reminder of our expectations for the year.

Homework

Homework is similar to what it was in Y3. Each child will be given a new Spellosaurus in which to complete their spelling activities (an example of some ideas will be stuck into their books). All homework will be given on a **Thursday** and is to be completed by the following **Thursday** (when we will have our spelling lessons and tests). Expectations are as follows:

- **Reading:** at least three entries where your child has read to an adult per week. Ideally, children should be reading, or being read to, daily.
- **Spellings:** two spellosaurus activities per week. If your child has completed an activity where nothing is needed in their books, an adult is to write down what that activity was and sign their spellosaurus to indicate that it has been completed.
- **Times Tables Rock Stars:** Five soundcheck sessions per week – this will be set by us and will show on your child's account.

We do understand that some children find TTRS quite stressful; the last thing we want is for your children to be stressed, anxious and tearful about their homework. If TTRS becomes a problem, please don't hesitate to come and see us to sort something out. However, as you may be aware, Year 4 take a multiplication test administered by the Department of Education in the summer term. This test will be taken online in school and is a very similar format to the 'Sound Check' section in TTRS.

Our only concern about children not using TTRS at home is that they are not practising the format of the test they will need to take in the summer term and therefore their anxiety of answering the questions in a certain amount of time might increase if they're not used to doing it every week. We will continue to use TTRS in school and will chat to the children about the option to turn the timer off to alleviate any timer-related anxiety they might have.

Reading and Reading Records

In Year 4 we encourage children to share their enthusiasm for reading and to become more discerning in their choice of reading materials. The children will be encouraged to share their reading experiences with others. Please support us by encouraging your child to read widely, perhaps by taking them to browse in Hitchin Library, and by discussing what they are reading with them. We know from research that children who experience this support make better than average progress.

Please record the reading your child does at home (book title, pages read and any relevant comments) in your child's Reading Record.

Reading records will be checked in school on a **Thursday** as part of their homework.

Our library day is Friday. We will endeavour to change reading scheme books on a more regular basis.

For those pupils who are on the Graded Reading Scheme, they will bring home one Reading Scheme book and one Library book. Please be particularly vigilant when your child has just moved up a level – their new books will contain more unknown/trickier words and they might need extra support for their reading to be fluent/make sense.

For those pupils who are a Free Reader, they will bring home two Library books. We will encourage them to take out a fiction and non-fiction book at a time.

Spelling

Spelling lists (containing words related to the taught strategy and words from the 2014 National Curriculum statutory list) will run over two weeks. They might also include revision and topic words. Pupils will be tested on the words from this list and new words that follow the same rule. Pupils will have a Spellosaurus with suggested activities to complete to explore and embed strategies.

Help

If anyone would like to offer help in hearing children read, coming to talk to the children about a particular topic being taught, or if you have a particular expertise that you could share with the school we would love to hear from you.

Art Shirts

We love art in Year 4! But we do hope to keep your children's clothes clean as much as possible. To help us with this, if your child is able to bring into school an old shirt/t-shirt that can be left here to be used as their Art overall, we would be very grateful. The best overalls are usually ones that are too big, that will cover their clothes comfortably.

Spare PE Kit

On the odd occasion, children may forget to bring their PE kit into school. We are running low on a supply of spare kit and spare trainers. If anyone has any old kit or trainers – which you weren't donating to friends or family or younger siblings – and you are happy to, we would welcome any spare kit to go into our spare kit collection.

For information on what your child will be learning this year, please take a look at the school website where you can look at each subject.

We have got what promises to be an excellent year coming up with some trips, visits and themed days in the works; Year 4 is a wonderful year with many wonderful topics. There is an Overstrand meeting on Thursday 6th October at 15:30 in the school hall – if you are unable to make it the slides will be available on the website after the meeting.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

If you ever need a quick chat with either of us, please do not hesitate to find us at the start of the day or at the end of the day. If you feel you will need a little bit longer with us, please contact the office and we can arrange a suitable time to have a longer chat with you.

Best wishes,

Charlotte Cornell and Emma Locke

Reading and Book Chat - Quality, not quantity is the key.

Read a few pages rather than an entire book. Do take time to work out tricky/unknown words together but try to let the reading happen without lots of interruption.

Interrupting a reader -especially an emerging reader- can hamper understanding, following, and remembering a storyline. It can also affect prediction of words and sounds. More importantly, it can impact a reader's enjoyment.

Spend a similar amount of time on book chat as you did with reading.

What's the point of book chat?

- To share enjoyment and interest
- To help clarify meaning
- To understand characters and events better
- To understand the intent of the author
- To make predictions



Some of the questions below should be useful as prompts.

- Clarify the meaning of a new/tricky word
- Remind me, what has just happened?
- (Re-telling is an important but challenging skill)
- What happened after....?
- Can you tell me why...?
- What does the word ... make you think of?
- Remind me what the problem is in the story
- What do you think of the story so far? (why?)
- If you were in the story, who would you be?
- How would you describe the main character? (Can you do it in 3 words?)
- If you were in the story, would you do anything differently?
- Who is your favourite character so far? (why?)

- Did anything surprise you about the story today?
- If you met (pick a character), what advice would you give them?
- How do you think it will end? (What makes you think that?)

- Ask about an illustration
- What would you say to/ask the author if you met them?
- What new fact from the book can you impress me with today?
- What do you think about the way the book is set out?
- Has today's read left you with any questions?
- What are you hoping to read next?