

Year Four

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Year 4! We're very excited to be teaching your children and have a great year coming up.

Learning

Over the course of the year we will be covering many different topics across all subject areas from how the Victorian railway changed Hitchin to Earthquakes, volcanoes and traditional Japanese stories! Details of exactly what your child will be learning throughout the year can be found on the school website.

Contact

If you ever need to speak to a member of the Y4 team, for whatever reason, an adult will always be available at the end of the day on the playground. Alternatively, pop your head round the classroom door at the beginning of the day if it's something that needs to be mentioned before the start of school. We believe open communication is important so please don't hesitate to come and say hello!

Parent's Evenings are being conducted in October and March alongside an Open Afternoon (please see the school calendar) so you have a chance to speak to your child's class teacher, discuss their learning and look in their books. Each class will also have a Class Assembly – Lamarr's is booked in for Thursday 19th October at 9am. Orville's will be confirmed later in the year.

Homework

Homework won't start being given until Thursday 21st September and is a similar format to what was given 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), and a new reading record. All homework will be given on a Thursday and is to be completed by the following Thursday (when we 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. Could we ask that reading records come in every day for when your child reads to an adult in school.
- Spellings: children need to learn their spellings weekly and this is done by completing at least 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.

I 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 get in touch and we can see about making alternative arrangements.

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 concern about children not using TT Rockstars at home is that they are not practising the format of the test given 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 of turning off the timer to alleviate any timer-related anxiety they might have.

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.

Twitter (X) and Google Classroom

Each of your children should now be a member of their new class on Google Classroom – their logins are the same as they were last year and they have all practised logging in again.

The use of Twitter (or X!) is personal to individual teachers – some teachers use it very regularly and others prefer putting information on Google Classroom instead. Twitter will always be used in the event of a trip and there will be a different account to follow when we go to Overstrand.

PE Kits

Year 4 have PE on a Tuesday and a Thursday and kits need to be in school on these days. It is helpful to keep kits in school at all times in case of a changed PE slot and take them home in the holidays. Occasionally, we may request kits are taken home after a particularly wet and muddy day to be washed before the next session; the cloakroom has been known to become quite pungent after such circumstances!

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.

We have got what promises to be an excellent year coming up with some trips, visits and of course, the Overstrand residential!

Please do come and chat to us if you have any questions at all – we will always be happy to help. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Year Four Team