

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely summer. We are so impressed with the enthusiasm and maturity that the children have started the year with! **School starts at 8:50a.m. and finishes at 3:05p.m.** If you have any questions, please come and let us know.

### Science

Science this half term will involve looking at animals including humans. In this topic, we will look at how we digest food and how we look after our teeth.

To help your child at home, talk to them about their teeth and how it is best to keep them clean.

### Mathematics

This half term in Maths, we will be focusing on place value of 4 digit numbers.

At home you could help your child by playing number games, for example; **Guess my number:** Think of a number and write it down. Can your child ask questions to guess it? (Do you have 4 in your hundreds column? Etc...)

### Art

This term we will be focusing on portraits. Children will be looking at the proportions of the face and using water colours to create their final piece.

## Autumn 1 in Year 4



### Computing

This half term we have a strong focus on e-safety. We will be learning about the importance of passwords and what makes a secure password.

We will also be looking at effective google searches and using this to research the Tudors for our writing in English. We will then word process our final draft to publish our non-chronological reports.

It would be great if you could support your child in developing their touch typing skills at home!

### PE

PE/Dance will be **every Tuesday and Wednesday**. Your child will need a yellow top with black shorts or trousers and trainers. They will be working on a range of different skills to apply to invasion games (netball).

### Music

All the children will be taking part in the exciting In2Music project. They will learn to play an instrument for a whole year and will be performing to parents every term.

### History

During the Autumn term, our History focus is on the theme of 'crime and punishment' throughout British history. The children will find out about the legacy of the Roman justice system and crime and punishment through the Anglo-Saxon, Tudor and Victorian periods. We will also compare crime prevention and detection methods historically with modern day systems.

### English

In English this half term, we will be reading 'How to train your dragon'. As a class, we will use this to inspire us to write poetry and vivid descriptions- concentrating on fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. We will also be writing explanation texts to help others look after their own dragons!

We concentrate on the presentation of our work in Year 4, including the layout of our page and writing cursively on the line. It will really help your child if you could work with them at home on their handwriting to embed the cursive expectations.

# How can I help my child at home?



## Websites

<https://www.sumdog.com/user/> - Great for maths practice and times tables. Homework will be set on this occasionally.

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting> - Variety of quick fire maths games.

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html> - fun games for spelling reminders and simple spelling rules linked to phonics.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr> - fun touch typing game!

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0> - children will use active learn for homework from time to time. They will also be able to access reading books from here.

## Times Tables

By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know up to their 12 times tables. So please be practicing your tables at home, ready for our Mountain Challenges at school. There are many times table games or songs that can help you, and don't forget Sumdog too!

### A few ways you can practice:

- Quick-fire questions (multiplication and division)
- Give an answer, what is the question? ( $15 = 3 \times 5$ )

## Reading advice

Please make sure your child reads **daily**.

They don't have to read to an adult every day, but they should still read. Reading helps develop their vocabulary and imagination; it helps improve their writing and concentration skills, and it calms them down at bedtime!

Don't forget to be completing your reading challenge cards! - the more that you complete, the more chance you have of getting your name picked at the end of the term to win a book! Every time you read at home, fill in one of the boxes. Then when it is complete, bring it in to class.

As usual, children will have a home-reading book and library books. They can also, of course, read any other books, comics or magazines that you might have at home!

### Talk about books:

Try to read to/with your child often. Discuss the illustrations, the characters, the language used by the writer, whether you like the book and why.

Remember you can borrow books from your local library and it is totally free!

## Homework, home-reading and library books

Homework alternates each week between English and Maths, supporting the work that we have been doing in class. It is sent out on Monday in their homework books and is to come back into school by the Friday of that week. Spelling tests will be on Mondays and Mountain Challenge (times tables tests) will be every Wednesday.

Home-reading books will be changed on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

Library books need to be in your child's bag ready to be changed on Library day which for Year 4 is a Monday.

Children need their kit in for PE every week on a **Tuesday and Wednesday**.