



# Welcome to Year 4

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 4, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

## Year 4 Staff

Miss Collins (Class Teacher)

Mrs Stein (Class Teacher)

Miss McMath (Class Teacher)

Mrs Atkins (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs Mechie (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs Stapleton (Teaching Assistant)

PPA will be covered by Mrs Kelleher in the Nightingale Class and Mrs Veitch in the Kingfisher class.

## Year 4 Expectations

In Year 4 we expect children to be responsible for their belongings and for ensuring they have the correct equipment for school. This is especially important for items such as PE kit, reading books and reading records. Children should independently make their way to the cloakroom via the outside classroom door.

## Year 4 Curriculum

In Year 4 we build on the children's work in year 3, further developing independence in their work and life. This academic year we will no longer be dividing the children in Years 3-6 into ability sets for the teaching of English (with the exception of spelling and phonics). We believe it is important to ensure that literacy skills are firmly embedded into other subjects such as science, history and geography which are currently taught in whole class groups. Writing will be taught in mixed ability class groups, by your child's own class teacher, where the work will be differentiated for the varying ability groups within the class. The skills the children acquire can then be more thoroughly reinforced through the writing produced in other subject areas. More cross curricular teaching may also take place where links will be made between literacy and other subjects. For example an English unit on persuasive arguments may be taught through a history topic or developing cohesion between sentences may be addressed through the writing of scientific conclusions. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best literacy skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons. Setting will still remain in Years 2-6 for the teaching of mathematics.

Details of the curriculum that your child will study during the academic year can be found on the school website. To locate this information simply go to the 'About Us' tab and then click on 'Curriculum'. In this section you will find details about our topics and the areas that the children will be studying in English, Maths, Science, Computing and RE. This section of the

website will be updated prior to the start of each new topic. Terms 1 and 2 will be added shortly as we are currently upgrading the website.

### **School Trips**

We hope to enrich the children's learning experience this year through a couple of school trips. We are hoping to organise a visit to a local Kent village in term 3 or 4 and later in the year, a visit to the Tenterden Railway Station is planned to participate in an Evacuation Experience in order to enhance the children's understanding of the Second World War. We anticipate that the total cost of these visits will be no more than £30-35.

### **Reading Books and Library**

Your child will have been given a Reading Record book in which we would like them to record any reading they have been doing. This can be for a school reading book or one from home.

Whenever possible, we would encourage the children to read to an adult at home and the adult is then welcome to write a short comment in the reading record book if they wish, or simply sign and date in the appropriate boxes on the page. We do appreciate that once the children become more independent readers, they may not want to read to an adult and so the children can take ownership of keeping a record of their reading. Teachers will then ask the children to bring their Reading Record book to each guided reading session. This will give us the opportunity to monitor the children's personal reading and give praise to those reading on a regular basis. Teachers or Teaching Assistants will also record a short comment linked to the guided reading session at least once a month. This is in addition to the internal on-going assessment and record keeping systems that we use within school. Our aim is to encourage all children to read as often as possible and for the children to develop a life-long love of reading. It is our observation that children who read regularly at home, and therefore read a wider range of texts, tend to demonstrate greater progress in reading, writing and spelling. We will also be participating in the star reader competition again this year and book marks for recording 20minute reading sessions and an information letter will be being sent home this week.

### **Homework**

A piece of homework will be set on either a Wednesdays or Thursdays dependent on subject or progress with the topic during the week. This is due by the following Monday at the latest to enable teaching staff to mark homework before the next piece is set. Homework will be sent home in the homework book. Please ensure that homework books are in school every day as sheets are glued into the book. When books are not in school on the correct day, loose sheets are often lost and homework not completed.

Towards the end of the academic year, two pieces of homework will be given out per week in order to prepare the children for Year 5. You will receive further information regarding the increase in homework later in the academic year.

As part of their homework time, children should be reading regularly, practising their times tables, and any spelling words that parents wish to practise with their children.

A copy of the school's guide on homework is available on request.

### **Spellings**

In term 1, all children will be focusing on phonics work. This will be a suitable phase from the Letters and Sounds scheme matched to the children's ability. From term 2 onwards some children may move onto exploring other spelling rules and strategies whilst others might continue to develop their phonetic knowledge. Phonics and spelling work is currently taught in ability groups for two 30 minute sessions per week.

### **Times Tables**

Children are expected to practise their times tables at home. This year we will continue to use a successful times table scheme. This involves the children initially bringing home a coloured times table grid which has been glued into their Times Table book. On the card there are a variety of colour zones. Children work from zone to zone learning the relevant multiplication and division facts in readiness for a test each Wednesday morning. When children are proficient at the tables in one colour level they will then be challenged by the next zone. This system allows each child to work at an individual pace. Your child's test will be glued into their times table book which will be sent home by Thursday. This will show you which times table facts that your child knows and which ones need to be learnt. Your child is not expected to get 20/20 each week but with regular practice an improvement should be noted in the scores.

### **Equipment and Resources**

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. This includes pencils, pens, rulers and scissors. Children may bring items of their own stationery, but please could pencil cases be kept to a minimum size to allow maximum work space. If children are inconsiderate about the use of school equipment this will need to be replaced at a cost to parents. Children are encouraged to bring an art overall to school to wear during art and craft activities.

### **P.E**

Children will have timetabled PE on Mondays (outdoor) and Wednesdays (indoors) for the Kingfisher Class and Mondays (indoor) and Thursdays (outdoor) for Nightingale Class. PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday morning and taken home on a Friday. It is essential that PE kits should consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsols for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. A tracksuit is useful for outdoor PE in colder weather. All items should be fully named. If your child wears earrings, these must be taken out for PE and the children must do this for themselves.

### **Celebration Assembly**

This will take place once a week, usually on a Monday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded fortnightly with special certificates. Also every fortnight a child

from each class within Upper school is chosen as the Citizen of the Week and invited to a tea party with Mr Holditch and Miss Talbot.

### **Healthy Snacks and Water**

Children may bring in a healthy snack for morning breaks. On Monday to Thursday this must be a piece of fruit (fresh or dried) or vegetable. On Fridays, morning snack can include other healthy alternatives, such as a piece of cheese or sunflower seeds. Children are allowed water to drink in their classrooms. This should be provided in a 'Godinton Water Bottle' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle, no larger than 500ml.

### **Speaking to School Staff**

Children are expected to come into school independently in the morning. First thing in the morning is not an ideal time for parents to talk to staff as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. The afternoon is a good time to catch us if the need arises. Many minor problems can be sorted out this way. For more important matters, an appointment can be made via the school office.

### **Finally ...**

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has an enjoyable and rewarding year.

Miss Collins

Mrs Stein

Miss McMath