

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer after the trials of 'Lockdown Life'! We are excited to be starting a new year back in school and are hopeful that with the systems we have in place, life can return to a greater degree of normality. We have made many adaptations, as you will appreciate, within the wider school and in class to enable us to operate safely within the guidance set out by Central Government. This means that the learning environment and learning itself will look different to normal. We have made slight changes to our curriculum so that should we have to operate virtually, learning is not interrupted, can be easily accessed by children and overseen remotely by staff. This includes times where children may need to self-isolate due to individual family circumstances. There will undoubtedly be teething problems but we anticipate that changes to routines will quickly be established and that life in school will return to a 'new normal'. White Class will be taught by Mrs. Black and Mrs. Pearson and Brown Class by Miss. Pringle.

### **Communication**

We will do our best to keep you informed of any changes and with that in mind are going to retain the Dojo messaging system for communication (new invites for your new class will be sent out in the coming days) so that you have a means of direct communication with staff. This year we will be conducting our Parents' Evening via a 10 minute telephone call early in November (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>) to discuss how your child has settled in and update you about their learning.

### **Topics this term**

This term we will be looking at Myths. We will be looking at the features of this genre but also will explore: characters and settings; powerful verbs; commas; paragraphing; conjunctions and structuring stories.

This year, we are going to be moving to SpellZone an education spelling program which tailors an individualised spelling scheme for your child. Your child will then complete weekly activities based on their identified spelling need and will move to new spellings as they demonstrate a secure memory of the given word lists. The children will no longer be given a formal spelling test as this will be an ongoing part of the program. We will continue to have a spelling lesson each week but this will explore Year 4 spelling rules and will form the basis of our daily handwriting practise. Handwriting continues to be an important focus this year and a joined, fluent, consistent style is encouraged. We anticipate that all children will start writing in pen during the year and regular practice at home would be helpful.

A copy of the school's high-frequency spellings will also be sent home. These are spellings children should be spelling correctly on a daily basis.

A reading list compiled by our Literacy Lead has also been attached to the newsletter for your child. The list is intended to provide guidance about age appropriate books. It is also intended to help encourage your child to read a wider variety of genres and authors. We encourage the children to try reading some of the books from this list or to read them with someone at home. These books are all available to borrow from the school library.

In Maths this term, we will be using short pre-assessments and our own teacher observations to help us identify any objectives from the previous year which may require further consolidation before moving on to more advanced content. Alongside this, we will be covering the following objectives from the Year 4 curriculum:

- Place Value, ordering and rounding of digits up to 10,000
- Counting in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 100.
- Adding and subtracting numbers up to 4 digits using formal written methods.
- Recalling multiplication and division facts up to  $12 \times 12$ .
- Multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by a one-digit number.
- Measuring and calculating the perimeter of rectilinear shapes.

In order to help all children acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need, a longer amount of time will be spent upon building key concepts and securing fluency with number facts.

History - A year-long focus on the Romans beginning with 'Why did the Romans march through Durham?'

Geography - Our unit this term will have us looking at Europe and using geographical skills to learn more about our continent.

Science - Our areas of study during the Autumn term this year in science will be Human Anatomy (Biology) & Light and Dark (Physics).

Computing - In our lessons we will be learning all about the Internet and will then complete a programming unit.

Art - Keeping in step with our history topic, we will look at Roman mosaic patterns and prints.

D&T - The children will be designing and making a moving character that uses pneumatics to initiate movement.

RE - This term we are moving to the updated agreed syllabus for Religious Education beginning with 'What do we know about the Bible and why is it important to Christians?'

We will also be continuing to have PSHE lessons which will respond weekly to the needs of the children as well as covering the PSHE topics including emotion well-being and the

Zones of regulation; French - beginning with the topic of Playtime and will be exploring an adapted music curriculum in line with our Covid Risk Assessment.

### **Dates**

October Half term: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Parents' Evening telephone conferences: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Holidays: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

### **Timetable**

Please find attached a copy of our timetable. This is to give you an idea about what your child has learned each day but is subject to change (other than PE).

This year our PE day is a Thursday. Please remember that your child should come to school already dressed for PE in line with our changes. Our class will continue to access Forest Schools throughout the year and we will let you know in advance so that appropriate clothing can be worn to school on those days.

### **Homework**

In Year 4, children will receive Maths and English homework on a Friday, to be completed by the following Wednesday when it will be marked. In addition to our English and Maths homework, we ask that you read with your child for 10 to 15 minutes each night. Fostering a life-long love of reading is our main focus and so we encourage you to also read **to** your child, discussing the book you are reading - this may include character intent [Why did he say that?] but also your own responses to the plot [I don't think I could have done that because...] Whether they have read to you or you to them, *please can you encourage your child to regularly update their reading record and then can you initial it each week as a check.* Children should have their school reading book in their bag on a daily basis to enable us to listen to them read.

We hope your child will enjoy the year in either White or Brown Class. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. C Black, Mrs. J Pearson & Miss. E. Pringle

<b>Set 1</b>		
the	go	was
to	he	are
I	she	my
no	was	
<b>Set 2</b>		
and	like	when
they	some	were
said	come	there
have	what	
<b>Set 3</b>		
water	should	called
people	would	asked
looked	because	
could	different	
<b>Set 4</b>		
does	of	Monday
coming	off	Tuesday
with		Wednesday
might	to	Thursday
every	two	Friday
again	too	Saturday
treasure		Sunday

### **High Frequency Words**

*(up to Y4 expectations)*

### Y4 Reading List

<u>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</u>	<u>Lewis Carroll</u>
<u>The Ogre of Oglefort</u>	<u>Eva Ibbotson</u>
<u>Granny</u>	<u>Anthony Horowitz</u>
<u>The Dragon's Child</u>	<u>Jenny Nimmo</u>
<u>A Bear Called Paddington</u>	<u>Michael Bond</u>
<u>Malory Towers Series</u>	<u>Enid Blyton</u>
<u>The Borrowers</u>	<u>Mary Norton</u>
<u>How to Train a Dragon</u>	<u>Cressida Cowell</u>
<u>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</u>	<u>J.K. Rowling</u>
<u>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</u>	<u>J.K.Rowling</u>
<u>The Dancing Bear</u>	<u>Michael Morpurgo</u>
<u>The Sleeping Sword</u>	<u>Michael Morpurgo</u>
<u>Long Way Home</u>	<u>Michael Morpurgo</u>
<u>The Wreck of the Zanzibar</u>	<u>Michael Morpurgo</u>
<u>The Sea Piper</u>	<u>Helen Cresswell</u>
<u>Harry the Poisonous Centipede</u>	<u>Lynne Reid Banks</u>
<u>The Famous Five Series</u>	<u>Enid Blyton</u>
<u>Gregory Cool</u>	<u>Caroline Binch</u>
<u>A Pot of Gold</u>	<u>Jill Bennett</u>
<u>Diggers</u>	<u>Terry Pratchett</u>
<u>Dragons at Crumbling Castle</u>	<u>Terry Pratchett</u>
<u>The Witch's Vacuum Cleaner</u>	<u>Terry Pratchett</u>
<u>The Demon Headmaster</u>	<u>Gillian Cross</u>

<u>Dog So Small</u>	<u>Philipa Pearce</u>
<u>The Battle of Bubble and Squeak</u>	<u>Philipa Pearce</u>
<u>Emil and the Detectives</u>	<u>Erich Kastner</u>
<u>The Iron Man</u>	<u>Ted Hughes</u>
<u>The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe</u>	<u>C S Lewis</u>
<u>Little House on the Prairie</u>	<u>Laura Ingalls Wilder</u>
<u>Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh</u>	<u>Robert C O'Brien</u>
<u>Stig of the Dump</u>	<u>Clive King</u>
<u>Matilda</u>	<u>Roald Dahl</u>
<u>James and the Giant Peach</u>	<u>Roald Dahl</u>
<u>Danny the Champion of the World</u>	<u>Roald Dahl</u>
<u>Emily Feather Series</u>	<u>Holly Webb</u>
<u>'I Survived' Series</u>	<u>A range of authors</u>
<u>Charlotte's Web</u>	<u>E.B. White</u>
<u>The Secret Garden</u>	<u>Frances Hodgson Burnett</u>
<u>Flour Babies</u>	<u>Anne Fine</u>
<u>Clarice Bean That's Me!</u>	<u>Lauren Child</u>
<u>Tom Gates Series</u>	<u>Liz Pichon</u>
<u>The 13th Storey Tree-House</u>	<u>Andy Griffiths/Terry Denton</u>
<u>The World's Worst Children</u>	<u>David Walliams</u>
<u>The Demon Dentist</u>	<u>David Walliams</u>
<u>The Story of Tracey Beaker</u>	<u>Jacqueline Wilson</u>

Y4 Timetable	Basic Skills + Registration				
	Maths	Maths	Topic+Music/French	Maths	Maths
	Break				
	Spelling/handwriting -				
	Maths	English	Topic+Music/French	English	English
	Lunch				
	English	science	PSHE/Computing	PE	Art/DT
	English	Science	PSHE/Computing	RE	Art/DT
Worship	Mrs Tait	Mrs Black	Class	Fr Barnaby	Mrs Tait
Story	Class read	Class read	Class read	Class read	Class read