

Dear Year 4 Children and Parents,



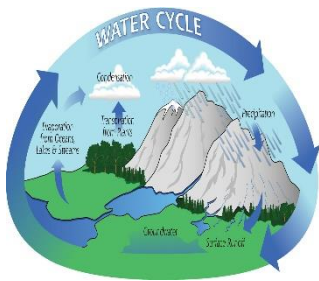
Firstly, let me start with a warm welcome! We are all delighted to welcome you back to school and hope that you managed to stay safe and well during lockdown. Obviously things in school are a little different now and we have routines in place to ensure that the classroom and school is a safe environment for us to work and learn in.

This year we have 3 members of staff in Year 4: Miss Taylor - our fabulous Teaching Assistant; the lovely Mrs Tonkin - who lots of you know from previous years in the school and who will be teaching you on a Thursday afternoon, and myself - Mrs Kenway. As you are aware I am new to the school but we will very soon get used to each other. Please be assured that throughout the year we will be working together very closely as a team to ensure the absolute best for you all.

As you will know from Mrs Berry's letter to you at the end of the summer term, the timings of the school day are changing for lots of us. Please can I remind you that in Year 4, children need to be arriving at school between 8:40am and 8:55am, remembering to follow social distancing guidelines. Year 4 children and parents will need to enter through the blue gate beside Mrs Berry's office and walk to the back classroom door where myself or another member of Year 4 staff will be waiting at the top of the steps to welcome you straight into the classroom.

At the end of the day, please remember that timings have also changed a little. In order to follow government guidelines and limit the number of people gathering on the school site, we have a collection window between 3pm and 3:15pm. We ask that an adult collect from the rear classroom door and that children are not leaving the school site on their own. Please ensure that you wait by the grass bank on the playground until your child comes to you, or until a school adult asks you to move towards the school building. This is to make sure that everyone can easily and safely move around the school site at busy times.

Please can I also remind you that children must have their PE kits in school all week. In Year 4, we have PE on Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning. PE kit must be in a named bag and on the children's peg. Due to current restrictions, we will be having PE outside unless the weather is horrendous therefore you may wish to send a warm jumper in too.



Our topic for this half term is '**What's the Matter?**' where we will be learning all about solids, liquids and gases and also looking at the learning and understanding about the water cycle.



TOPIC HOMEWORK!

To link with our topic, you will receive a homework grid outlining a selection of different tasks to be completed before the end of this half term. The grid consists of 4 columns with 4 different activities. Each activity has a given number of points and over the half term the children will need to complete a minimum of 35 points (of course they can exceed this number of they wish). It is important to make sure that at least one activity from each group is completed (A-D).

You will have the whole half term to complete your 35 points however I do advise that you don't leave it all to the last minute. Due to this, every other week we will ask you to bring in what you have done so far to check on your progress. You do not need to complete all of the activities in your homework book but can present them however you choose - posters, models, leaflets etc. Towards the end of the half term we will then have a day where you will need to bring all of your topic work in and we will share it together as a class.

Please do feel free to ask if you are unsure or need any support with the activities. Have fun!

SPELLINGS

Every week the children will have 5 spellings to learn from the statutory curriculum spelling list. These lists are given out for Y3/4 at the beginning of the term and the children also have them stuck in the front cover of their Literacy books. Each week the children will have 5 to learn and on completion of these words will be given the next 5. The remainder of the spelling test will be on rules taught that week during spelling lessons. For example, if the rule learnt Words with /aw/ spelt with augh and au, the children will know the rules from their lessons and will be asked to practise this rule at home. During their spelling test the remaining 5 words might then be naughty, daughter, autumn, astronaut and author. The test will take place on a Friday morning and the children's new spelling will be sent home on the Monday at the very latest (where possible on the Friday).

TIMES TABLES

To support with speedy recall of times tables, we also ask that children spend no longer than 10 minutes completing their allocated challenges on Times Tables Rocks Stars (TTRS) at home.



MATHS & ENGLISH

Each week there will be maths and English homework set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday. We will be introducing IXL, which is an interactive online learning platform, to support our English and Maths homework. This is in order to minimise potential contamination with resources moving between home and school on a regular basis. We will be sending more information out shortly to support you and your child with accessing this at home.



READING

In addition to the set homework I cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading. The children should be reading most evenings and discussing their texts. Please also remember to record reading in their journals provided.

PIP LETTERS

This year, we will be going paperless with our PiP letters. All homework expectations and an outline of what we have been learning across the week will be outlined on this letter and it will be uploaded on the Year 4 class tab on the school website every Friday.

MEET THE TEACHER

Normally we would hold a 'Meet the Teacher' evening in early September for you to come into the classroom and discuss the new routines and expectations of the new year group. Sadly, due to government guidelines, these will not be held in person. However, we will be uploading a PowerPoint presentation onto the 'Year 4' class page area of the school website on Friday 18th September for your reference. This will hopefully answer questions that you may have about the new school year. If you have any further questions, please do feel free to contact the school and arrange a time to meet and discuss any queries or concerns.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all this year and seeing what super learning and fun can be had. It has certainly been a year like no other so far but we all want to be back in school working with the children to help them to learn and grow.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kenway