

Welcome To Year 4!



Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 6th September 2019

Welcome back and welcome to Year 4!

We hope you have all had a good summer break and your children have enjoyed their first few days in Year 4 in their newly refurbished classrooms! We are looking forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year. This should be a very enjoyable and stimulating year as we have so many exciting learning experiences planned.

Staff

Willow Class

Teachers: Mrs D Rogers: Monday, Tuesday (am), Wednesday and Thursday: Mrs J Wilson: Friday.

Higher Level Teaching Assistant: Mrs M Ware (Covering the class on Tuesday afternoons).

Oak Class

Teacher: Miss G Blake: Monday, Tuesday (am), Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Higher Level Teaching Assistant: Mrs G Hurrell (Covering the class on Tuesday afternoons).

Shared Teaching Assistant: Mrs J Finn (Monday to Friday am).

Communication

The children should now be used to walking round to the classroom from the gate by themselves. Please ensure that they **arrive at school promptly** for the time the gate opens at 8:45 as the children begin the day by practising important maths and literacy skills as soon as they enter the classroom in the mornings.

Home School communication books (**Fish books**) will be issued next week. As well as recording reading at home please use the book to communicate with us for any minor queries and to let us know of any changes to collection arrangements or appointment times.

We can also be contacted via e mail:

deborah.rogers@firslower.org

georgia.blake@firslower.org

You are also welcome to pop in and speak to us after school. If a longer chat is necessary we can arrange a mutually convenient time.

If you wish to discuss anything with us of course, at any point during the year, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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Reading Books

We will have a new system for changing reading books throughout the whole school this year; details of this will be sent out on a separate letter shortly.

Free readers can choose books directly from the shelves outside the Year 4 classrooms or bring in a book from home to enjoy. Children on our reading programme will continue to read books at the appropriate level which are colour coded to correspond to our RWI programme.

Please hear your child read as often as you can, try to set aside a few minutes each day even if they are a confident reader. Reading aloud is a very different skill requiring the children to adopt a storyteller's voice and a lot can be gained from discussing events and characters, predicting what may happen, inferring information (reading between the lines) and discussing the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary and the effectiveness of exciting vocabulary. Please do not feel that you have to read a whole book in one sitting; little and often is usually best with time to read the words and time to chat and comprehend what has been read. The children will also be reading in school as part of their literacy lessons, doing comprehension activities from extracts of books, reading and discussing texts in guided reading with the teacher and heard individually once every half term by their class teacher. Additionally they may also be heard by parent helpers. **Please ensure that your child has their reading book and reading log (fish book) in school every day.**

Uniform

We would be grateful if you could ensure that all of your child's uniform and school equipment is named; this helps us to return lost property items back to their owners quickly. Please ensure that children are dressed according to the school's uniform policy and are ready to begin the day as **smart learners**.

PE

Willow Class will do PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Oak Class will do PE on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

PE kits (including trainers) need to be in school every day as occasionally timetables change. External sports coaches will be coming in to teach the children at times throughout the year.

PE lessons take place both inside and outside. We are keen to encourage a positive attitude towards sports and exercise so please ensure that your child has appropriately warm clothing and comfortable trainers. Earrings need to be removed or ear tape provided in PE bags and hair below shoulder length needs to be tied back for school on that day please. During the winter months, when girls are wearing tights, a pair of spare socks need to be in their PE bag.

Immediately after half term we will be going swimming at Flitwick Leisure Centre on Wednesday afternoons for 6 sessions. (More details to follow).

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Homework

We will be sending out details of how homework will be organised soon. Children will then be expected to be working on homework tasks every week.

Art/DT

During art and DT sessions the children will often engage in messy activities. Please ensure that your child has an old named art shirt that they can leave in school for these occasions.

Spellings

Spellings will soon be coming home with your child and we will be testing them weekly on Tuesdays. Children who participate in the Lexia programme will continue with their learning in this way. When spellings are given out, the children will stick them into their Fish book. Once tested, the score will be recorded in their Fish Book too. Common exception words will continue to be tested regularly.

Please spend time each week using the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check method learning spellings. Again, **little and often** works best. Please also revisit those not mastered from previous weeks.

Maths

At the end of this year the Year 4 children will be sitting a national computerised test assessing their ability to recall their **multiplication tables** at speed (6 seconds!) Please support your child to learn their tables by making regular use of **Times Table Rockstars** as well as any other games, charts, quizzes, etc that will help at home. In addition to this please practise everyday opportunities for using maths eg. counting in many different steps, using money, telling the time, looking at the properties of shapes, sharing into fractions, measuring and reading charts and tables. Practise number skills like 1, 10 and 100 more and less, doubling and halving, counting in tens starting from any number, number bonds and quick mental addition and subtraction.

End of Day Arrangements

During the course of this year we will be writing to parents about allowing children to walk home without an adult in the summer term (as this is a good preparation for middle school next September). However, until that point we still need collection arrangements to be the same as in previous years. To that end, we would be grateful if you could complete the slip below to indicate who will be regularly collecting your child. **If there are any changes to this, we would ask that you contact the office or write in the fish book as normal.** Thank you.

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Parent Helpers

After the children have had a few weeks to settle into their new classes we would appreciate any regular offers of help with hearing readers or supporting art and DT lessons. Please indicate on the form below if you are able to help.

Please also let us know if you have any special skills or areas of interest that you are willing to share with us that would support the children's learning this year.

Thank you in anticipation for your support

Year 4 Team

Name of child: Class:

My child will usually be collected by (*name*) or (*Kid's Club / Fordfield*):

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

I am able to regularly help to hear readers on:

Monday (8:45 - 9:05)	Tuesday (8:45 - 9:05)	Wednesday (8:45 - 9:05)	Thursday (8:45 - 9:05)	Friday (8:45 - 9:05)

I could help with art/DT on:

Willow Class - Mondays (art)/ Fridays (DT) alternate half terms.	Oak Class - Wednesdays (Thursdays during swimming half term).